



Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

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Tears and tributes – farewell to a people's champion

BY EMMA DENT COAD
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TRIBUTES were paid this week to one of North Kensington's favourite sons – Von Barrington Adams, better known as Jamaican reggae promoter and community champion Daddy Vego.

The man behind The People's Sounds record shop in All Saint's Road died on Sunday, January 3, aged 74, after a long illness. His family was at his bedside.

Daddy Vego arrived with the Windrush generation in 1956 and settled in North Kensington. It is said that at

the time he was the only Jamaican in the area – part of his legacy is a dynasty of 14 children, 45 grand-children and 25 great grand-children.

Daddy was a music man through and through, and a community peacemaker, working through the years of racial tension and violence.

In the early 1980s Daddy began to work as a Notting Hill Carnival community mediator with the police, monitoring activity with Frank Crichlow, who had started the Mangrove Club in All Saints' Road.

Daddy played each night for seven years at the Roaring Twenties Club at Colombo's in the West End – bringing reggae, blues and boogie-woogie to a wider audience.

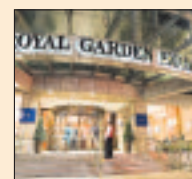


Community mourns loss of 'man of peace' Daddy Vego – PAGE 3

■ **COMMUNITY LINCHPIN:** Daddy Vego, who has died at the age of 74, was an inspirational figure for the North Kensington community throughout his life after coming to London with the Windrush settlers in the 1950s.
Photo (C) Jon Stevens
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Hotel still a top draw 50 years after World Cup sensation



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Firefighter honoured for foreign lifesaving charity work



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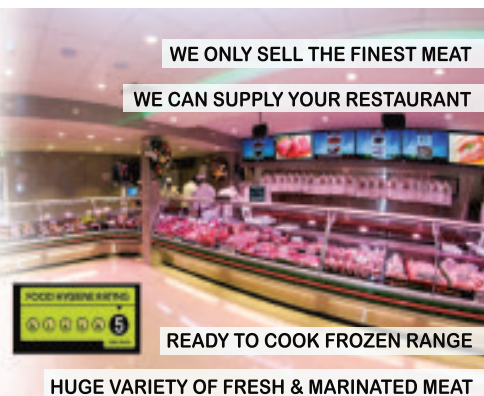
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THE paper serving the HEART of London

Join London's volunteering revolution

THE Mayor Boris Johnson witnessed first-hand the impact that speed volunteering is having on lives across the capital when he launched a new app – the first of its kind in the country – to make it easier for more Londoners to become volunteers.

As London begins its year as the European Volunteering Capital, Team London, the mayor's successful volunteering programme, has launched a unique, free app, which matches volunteers with local speed volunteering opportunities, making it possible for busy people to commit a small amount of time to suit their schedules. The app has been created in response to research that found 59 per cent of people are deterred from volunteering because of lack of time due to work commitments.

Last week the mayor met GoodGym speed volunteers, a team of runners who keep fit at the same time as doing good in the community. GoodGym receives funding through the Team London initiative and Mr Johnson joined them at The Passage homeless charity in Victoria to help clear away Christmas decorations and clean up the centre's communal areas.



FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mr Johnson said: "As we start our year as the top city in Europe for volunteering, I urge Londoners to make it their New Year's Resolution to join our volunteering revolution. Team London has created an incredible volunteering legacy for the capital, and through this new, free app, it is now easier than ever to use a little of your spare time to make the city an even better place to live in."

GoodGym is just one of more than 80,000 volunteering opportunities available in London, with activities that include befriending older Londoners, planting trees and working with young people. Some of the many varied op-

portunities currently offered via Team London's website include creating social media content for education charity WORLDwrite, maintaining ponds and wildlife areas at Sutton Community Farm and teaching people to read and write at homeless charity Providence Row.

Partnership Manager at GoodGym, Ed Field said: "Funding from Team London has allowed us to massively expand what we do. We've been able to offer more GoodGym sessions to more people than ever before, bringing hundreds of new Londoners into volunteering all across the capital. London has such a rich community of voluntary organisations doing great things for the city and so we are always looking for new runners to meet their demand. You don't need to be an experienced runner or commit long term, just turn up, give a helping hand and get fit at the same time. Why not join us?"

As well as Team London funding for GoodGym, the mayor is also providing funding for The Passage, London's largest voluntary sector resource centre for homeless and vulnerable people. The charity, which helps up to 200 men and women every day, has received

£381,780 through Mr Johnson's Homelessness Change and Platform for Life programme.

Mick Clarke, chief executive of The Passage, said: "The Passage welcomes the mayor's leadership in encouraging more people to get involved in volunteering within their local communities. The Passage has a 4:1 volunteer to staff ratio and we simply could not deliver our diverse services, which enable so many people to end their homelessness for good and get back into employment and society, without the support of hundreds of volunteers, including those from the GoodGym initiative."

London was named the best city in Europe for volunteering 2016 at a ceremony last month, beating off competition from 10 other rival cities. The city scooped the title of European Volunteering Capital 2016 in recognition of the innovative programmes the mayor has developed as a legacy of London 2012, when volunteering took centre stage at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Since then, the mayor's volunteering initiative Team London has mobilised more than 120,000 active volunteers, including 60,000 school children and young people.

■ The Team London speed volunteering app can be downloaded from the iTunes app store by searching for 'Team London'. The app will be available on android soon. To find out more about speed volunteering, you can visit speedvolunteer.london.gov.uk/

■ The European Volunteering Capital Competition is run by the European Volunteer Centre and aims to promote volunteering at a local level by giving recognition to municipalities that support and strengthen partnerships with volunteer centres and celebrate and promote volunteering and the impact made by volunteers.

■ Team London is the mayor's programme to mobilise an army of volunteers across the capital. The aim is to improve life through programmes that will reduce crime, increase opportunities for youth and improve quality of life by cleaning and greening London and building stronger neighbourhoods. Team London promotes volunteering opportunities for nearly 1,600 charitable organisations, runs a wide range of programmes to support young people and has worked with over 100 London businesses in the last year to recognise the importance of volunteering.



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CHAIRMAN

Sir Ray Tindle

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JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS

Karen Sheppard

0208 768 4903

Philip Evans (Editor)

07796 951991

Editorial email:

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274

Reporter Jack Dixon 07973 565078

Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427

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Community mourns loss of 'man of peace' Daddy Vego

The Afro-Caribbean and black community in North Kensington feels under threat. A combination of two unwelcome surveys and accompanying 'reviews' of Notting Hill Carnival, from the council and the Kensington MP, the disastrous early stages of Westway Trust's attempts to regenerate the 23 acres of land beneath the Westway flyover that is held in trust to the community, and the effects of high property prices, rising rents and threatened development, are undermining 50 years' work in community relations. At this sensitive time, EMMA DENT COAD pays tribute to the life and work of a well-loved community linchpin

VON Barrington Adams, better known as Jamaican reggae promoter Daddy Vego of The People's Sounds record shop in All Saint's Road, North Kensington, died on Sunday, January 3, aged 74, after a long illness, surrounded by his family.

Daddy Vego arrived with the Windrush generation in 1956 and settled in North Kensington, as it was cheap to rent and had a large Afro-Caribbean population. It is said that at the time he was the only Jamaican in the area – part of his legacy is a dynasty of 14 children, 45 grand-children and 25 great grand-children.

Daddy was a music man through and through, and a community peacemaker, working through the years of hatred and distrust from a vocal minority of the white population and – at the time, frankly – racist police. He remembered as a child seeing the race riots, and Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts marching down Ladbroke Grove, seignioring and abusing black residents. He remembered the first racist murder, of carpenter and law student Kelso Cochrane in Southam Street in May 1959, the shock of the community, and black and white residents lining the streets side by side to pay their respects as his funeral procession moved up Ladbroke Grove. From this murder – never solved though many say they know the perpetrator – the community came together and Carnival was born.

My first visit to Carnival was in 1981. I was having the time of my life dancing in All Saints' Road when my friend, a Carnival regular, grabbed me and told me to run. I had no idea what he meant, so peered over the crowd to see a tight row of bobbies' helmets; they had linked arms and were literally charging at the peaceful crowd. I ran. That's how it was in those days.

Around that time 1981/82, Daddy began to work as a Carnival community mediator with the police, monitoring activity with Frank



■ **FIGUREHEAD: Daddy Vego, who has died at the age of 74, was a father-figure in North Kensington.**

Picture by Jon Stevens – (C) Jon Stevens www.jonstevensphotography.com 07799 848843

Crichlow, who had started the Mangrove Club in All Saints' Road. Frank had been one of the Mangrove Nine, a group of black activists including Darcus Howe who in 1970 were arrested for alleged incitement to riot after they protested that the club had attracted regular and baseless police raids. Daddy Vego was involved in the protests and picketing outside police stations that followed – along with Councillor Ben Bousquet, one of the first black local politicians – and fought for his friends' innocence. This infamous case resulted in acquittal for all nine suspects, and the shocking judgement that police had concocted evidence.

Daddy Vego played each night for seven years at the Roaring Twenties Club at Colombo's in the West End – bringing reggae, blues and boogie-woogie to a wider audience. His shop opened in 1988. People's Sound was on the 'front line', All Saints' Road, at the time the centre of drug-related crime and regular confrontations with police. In the midst of this, Daddy promoted reggae and was known as the original Selector (DJ) setting up the UK's first sound system.

Throughout all these difficult

times, Daddy Vego was a tireless promoter of Jamaican reggae and culture, encouraging new talent at open mic events and spreading his Rastafarian beliefs based on peace, love and unity. He spent hours talking to those in trouble, was never judgmental, and as one said, 'his love was unconditional'.

In 1994 he and the Mangrove Community Association twinned All Saints' Road with Vienda Street in Soweto, and ran Free Mandela street parties, culminating in a huge celebration when Mandela was elected President. Between 1999 and 2005 Daddy ran a free children's carnival in the street, with music and attractions, showcasing local musicians. He worked long and hard to reform police procedures, including the much-hated Sus law which allowed police to stop anyone 'acting suspiciously' and which for some clearly translated as just being black and standing in the street with friends.

It was a terrible time to be young, male and black, and several incidents at police stations that resulted in injury and even deaths were alleged to have not been properly investigated. Daddy worked with local young people, giving them

jobs at his shop to steer them away from drugs and crime, acting as mediator between local gangs, and at one point made All Saints' Road a no-go area for drug dealers by putting up notices stating 'no drug dealers here' and chasing them away.

The expressions 'community activist' and 'music promoter' are unworthy to describe a man like Daddy Vego. He was more than that; a father of 14, and Daddy to thousands.

Monday, January 11 will see his 'ni-night' or wake, which takes place nine days after passing. This promises to be an evening to remember with all his family, friends and community members present.

We hope to cover this event next week with a picture story and tributes from family and friends. The funeral arrangements are under discussion, but it is worth remembering that the 2010 funeral of his friend and associate Frank Crichlow effectively closed Ladbroke Grove for several hours while the neighbourhood came out to pay their respects at his funeral procession.

Another North Kensington legend has ended, but his legacy will continue.

Emma Dent Coad

Council chips in for dog owners

PARKS police in Kensington and Chelsea are organising a free microchipping session for dogs in order to help owners avoid a £500 fine.

From Wednesday, April 6 all dog owners must ensure that their pets are microchipped. The new law has been introduced by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and will require all puppies aged over eight weeks to be chipped.

A free microchipping session has been organised by the Royal Borough's parks police with the Dogs Trust on Wednesday, January 14 at Westfield Park.

In addition to having their dog microchipped owners can also have their pooches' nails trimmed for free, get advice on a free dog-neutering service and let their pet try out an dog-agility course.

"According to Defra lost and stray dogs cost the taxpayer and welfare charities £33 million per year," said a spokeswoman for the council.

Swap shop

YOU can take your unwanted, re-usable items to one of Kensington and Chelsea council's January swap shops and pick up something in their place for free.

Pop into either North Kensington Library (108 Ladbroke Grove, W11 1PZ) or Brompton Library (210 Old Brompton Rd, SW5 0BS) on Saturday, January 23, from noon to 4pm.

You can take clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, toys, paired shoes and more. If you don't have anything to swap you can still go along and pick up a bargain.

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Mark of appreciation for global lifesaver

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A CHELSEA firefighter has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours list for voluntary services to people and animals abroad.

Since 2006 Mark Whitfield, 39, has been raising money to buy decommissioned ambulances and mobile clinics and deliver them all over the world to places in real need. He renovates them in his own time, making them more robust and equipped to deal with incidents in developing countries. Recently Mark sent six ambulances to Sierra Leone to help in their fight against Ebola and treat casualties.

With two supporters, Mark took part in the Dakar Rally in an ambulance to show how it could deal with the rough terrain. They successfully took it across the Sahara Desert and delivered it to Senegal.

Mark has served as a London firefighter for five years and was previously a London Ambulance Service Emergency Medical Tech-

nician – and continues to work for them part-time. He has set up a charity called Global Aid Vehicles and Mark's work aids UK charities such as St John Ambulance by helping them dispose of obsolete vehicles and ensuring the vehicles have a productive second life once decommissioned.

London Fire Commissioner Ron Dobson said: "Mark is a credit to London Fire Brigade and his unselfish acts have benefited the world's needy and given a new lease of life to decommissioned ambulances. I congratulate him on his well deserved award."

Mark Whitfield, who lives in Morden, said: "It was completely unexpected but very nice to receive the recognition for the work my supporters and I have done to bring medical equipment to those in need. I'd like to thank Ian Miller and my wife Vivi, who nominated me."

"My wife has been a great supporter of my charity work and this award explains the various questions she's been asking me over recent months; I now understand

that she was gathering information for the nomination.

"In nearly a decade we've delivered around 30 ambulances across the world, including shipping three ambulances to Djibouti and Somaliland, where there previously were none. In gathering information for the nomination my wife was in touch with the former Ambassador for Senegal, who told her that the ambulance we delivered in January 2007 is still in operation – which is fantastic news considering the terrible roads and dangerous traffic."

Ian Miller MBE, who nominated Mark, said: "I heard of Mark's work for human and animal welfare from his wife, Vivi, when we worked together. I was amazed when I saw a map and a list of countries where Mark had delivered ambulances and animal clinics that he had acquired and renovated himself. He has dedicated so much time and effort over such a long period that I felt strongly that he deserved formal recognition."

"The brigade has helped Mark store ambulances while they're being renovated and very kindly agreed to support the nomination. I was proud to be able to prepare the submission with Vivi's invaluable assistance and hard work, and I'm delighted to see Mark awarded an incredibly well-deserved British Empire Medal."

If you're interested in finding out more information about Global Aid Vehicle charity go to www.globalaidvehicles.com



■ FOREIGN AID: Chelsea fireman Mark Whitfield and wife Viv.



■ FLEET SERVICES: Mark Whitfield with renovated ambulances.

NEWS FROM NICK...

There has been much to applaud about the authority's many achievements in 2015, writes Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



Successes to be proud of as Europe debate looms

IN January, we local politicians are often asked for our New Year's resolutions, and our hopes and predictions for the coming year.

But as a Conservative I naturally look on the future with apprehension and so must first steel myself by dwelling on the glories of the past. That's why I am starting this article with a few highlights of the year just gone.

In no particular order and by no means exhaustive, here's a list of some of the many things I am proud of from 2015.

Our A-level results were once again well above the national average and so were our GCSEs. Our Key Stage 2 results were the best in the country. All of our schools were rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. We opened a wonderful new leisure centre and a magnificent new secondary academy. And we moved forward on a huge programme of school building renewal.

And there's more: our Plan-

ning Enforcement Team now has genuine claim to being the toughest in London and we fought successfully to retain our exemption from new planning rules allowing office space to become residential without planning permission.

We committed to building 100 new 'extra care' homes for our elderly residents and we were able to remain one of the handful of councils still meeting the 'moderate needs' of adults who need care support. We also began consulting on several schemes designed to provide a significant number of new homes, and Opera Holland Park became an independent company. What's more, our services overall remained pretty much intact despite a fifth year of austerity.

I could go on. And on. But I suppose I should say something about the coming year. As you all know, 2016 could well be the year of the European referendum. And even if the vote is delayed to 2017,

the European question will this year increasingly come to dominate the political agenda.

The issue could hardly be more important but almost as important will be how the debate is conducted. Regular readers of this column will know that I am no fan of Twitter bullies and anonymous online trolls. I fear that some of their toxicity will soon enter the European debate, just as it did around the recent vote on Syria and just as it did on the Scottish referendum. In fact I fear that on the European issue, things could be far, far worse.

Personally, I think it is right that the British people are finally to have their say. I just hope that in doing so the two sides will listen to both sides of the argument, talk calmly to one another and respect each other's perspectives. This will be one of the most important decisions our country has ever taken. Once it is made I hope that we will still be able to move forward together.

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

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■ **PICTURE THIS:** Returning to the Business Design Centre in Islington for its 28th edition, the London Art Fair later this month presents a varied programme of Modern and contemporary art. The event's backers, the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings, will show important works from their collection in a specially curated show, called *Coast*. Elsewhere, *Dialogues*, a collaborative initiative bringing together invited galleries and their emerging artists, will be curated this year by Natasha Hoare. And *Photo50* will showcase photographic works loosely based on Jean-Luc Godard's film, *Masculin Féminin*. A curated showcase of the freshest contemporary art from across the globe, *Art Projects*, features large-scale installations, solo shows and group displays, including work by Isabelle Wenzel, pictured left. *Art Projects* is situated alongside the main Fair on Gallery Level 1. The fair is open on Wednesday, January 20, from 11am to 9pm; Thursday 21 from 11am to 9pm; Friday 22 from 11am to 7pm; Saturday 23 from 10am to 7pm and Sunday 24 from 10am to 5pm.

'Scrap the garden bridge to fund cheap Tube travel for low-paid'

Lib Dems' mayor candidate on collision course with Joanna Lumley

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON mayor candidate Caroline Pidgeon is set for a clash with Joanna Lumley and London Underground workers over plans to fund half-price fares by scrapping the Garden Bridge and abolishing some perks for Tube staff.

Ms Pidgeon, the Lib Dem hopeful to be the next mayor of the capital, wants to slash early morning fares for the benefit of low-paid workers. She says that if elected she will halve the price of all Tube rides before 7.30am.

The cost of bringing in the "red eye saver" scheme would be £30 million and Ms Pidgeon says that, as mayor, she could find the money by abandoning the Garden Bridge and making Tube staff take a cut in some of their perks.

The Garden Bridge, planned to stretch from Temple Station on the North Bank to Queen's Walk by the

London Studios, was originally proposed by *Absolutely Fabulous* star Joanna Lumley, who is set to open the bridge in 2018.

Although most of the £175 million cost of the bridge would be met from private investors, Ms Pidgeon says she could save Londoners £10 million in public contributions to the project by scrapping it altogether.

She also aims to save another £10 million by abolishing a Transport for London staff benefit through which TfL workers are entitled to nominate a family member or a friend for free travel all year long.

The Rail Maritime and Transport Union is expected to fight the plan to scrap the perk as union chiefs say the benefit helps families of TfL staff afford to live and work in the capital.

Ms Pidgeon told the BBC: "There's a huge issue with people who are on low incomes who travel in early and keep London moving, people from cleaners to security staff to those who work in the cafes and keep our city tick-

ing over. What I'm looking to do is to have half-price fares until 7.30 in the morning. It would help those low-income Londoners but also it would help people to perhaps decide to travel in that bit earlier and therefore help reduce the severe over-crowding that Londoners face day-in, day-out on the Tube and trains.

"TfL have told me it would cost about £30 million and I would pay for that by scrapping the Garden Bridge project, which would save £10 million, get rid of the East London crossings that are planned, which would be another £10 million, and save a further £10 million from the perks that staff get who work for TfL. At present, TfL staff can nominate a friend or a family member to get free travel for the year."

She added: "TfL people are going to have to help to pay for this scheme. Staff would still get free travel but at the moment you can have a lodger in your house and give him free travel. I don't think that that is right in this day and age."



■ **CROSS PURPOSES:** Mayoral hopeful Caroline Pidgeon and actress Joanna Lumley.

It's lighting up time in capital

LONDON'S first major light festival gets under way on Thursday this week at a number of high-profile locations in the centre of the capital.

Lumiere London unfolds over four evenings from January 14 to 17, featuring 30 installations from leading artists. It is a free outdoor event.

The installations will appear around King's Cross, Piccadilly, Westminster, Trafalgar Square and Mayfair, and will range from simple, light-hearted pieces, such as neon signs and figures, to large-scale projections onto buildings. Among the major attractions will be the *Garden of Light* in Leicester Square; produced by French art collective Tilt, who say their giant illuminated flowers and trees will bring a "taste of the tropics" to the city in winter.

At Oxford Circus, a net sculpture called *1.8 London* by artist Janet Echelman will be strung between buildings. The name is a reference to the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in 2011, which momentarily caused the earth's rotation to speed up, shortening the day by 1.8 microseconds. Data from this event was used to create the sculpture and audiences will be able to interact with it, manipulating the light and patterns projected using a special app.

The facade of the Liberty department store near Oxford Circus will feature *Keyframe* – animated dancing stick men.

Other works in the festival, which will run from 6.30pm to 10.30pm each evening, include a set of glowing "light benches"; a telephone box that has been converted into an aquarium full of exotic fish; a 17-metre light sculpture of a diver at King's Cross Pond Club; illuminated figures in Mayfair; and a huge animated projection of an elephant set to run through the Regent Street area.

A pint-sized history lesson

ARCHITECTURAL historian Geoff Brandwood leads a pub crawl with a difference in March.

His tour takes in three varied inns with interesting historic interiors, starting at the Lamb in Bloomsbury, sited in a Georgian building and refitted by the Victorians. He then takes his 'students' on a walk through the area's fine early Georgian streets to a 1930s rebuilt pub, the Duke in Roger Street. The tour ends at one of the great pubs of the 1920s, the Cittie of Yorke in High Holborn, where the idea of a great baronial hall was recreated by the wine merchants, Henekeys. The walk will aim to explain something of the development of the London pub and how it has changed.

The Bloomsbury to Holborn pub crawl is on March 14, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Tickets are at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-society-bloomsbury-to-holborn-pub-crawl-tickets

Warehouse swoop nets rogue goods

BY LWN REPORTER

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TRADING Standards Officers from borough councils across London took part in a raid on a north London warehouse last month in which more than 20,000 potentially hazardous electrical goods such as laptop chargers, adapters, Christmas lights, PCs, tablets, sat navs and other electrical products were seized.

The raid, on December 15, was part of a project funded by National Trading Standards aimed at combatting the sale of dangerous imports in the UK, many of which do not meet stringent EU safety standards.

Twenty two trading standards officers from a number of London local authorities as well as the Metropolitan Police, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and immigration departments took part in the swoop.



■ **SUCCESS:** Lord Toby Harris, chairman of National Trading Standards, hailed the raid.

More than 30 pallets of potentially dangerous products, which had been imported from China and other countries outside of the European Union, were seized and transported to a secure location using a large articulated lorry and trailer. A criminal investigation is under way.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, Cllr Tim Ahern said: "It is difficult to estimate how many injuries and lives may have been saved by taking these dangerous items off sale as it is completely reasonable to assume that most, if not all these items, were destined to be Christmas gifts to be used by people completely unaware of the potential risks involved."

"I am at a loss to understand how businesses can allow potentially

unsafe goods to be sold. However, I am pleased that our trading standards officers have contributed to this operation, some of whom started working at 7am in the morning and did not finish until gone midnight."

Lord Toby Harris, Chairman, National Trading Standards, said: "I applaud everyone involved in this successful raid which kept these potentially dangerous products from falling into the hands of unsuspecting consumers, simply looking for the perfect presents for friends and relatives this Christmas."

"At this time of year it can be tempting to look for a bargain, but we would urge consumers to be on their guard. If something looks too good to be true, it probably is. Consumer safety is a top priority for National Trading Standards and I hope that the criminals involved in peddling these unsafe items will now be brought to justice."

"If you do suspect any sellers, websites or products are unsafe we urge you to report them to the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506."

Last month's raid is the latest stage in an ongoing programme of work by HMRC and other government agencies to tackle not only unsafe fake products but tax fraud on imports from overseas suppliers, trading through online market places – potentially cheating both the taxpayer, legitimate traders and their customers by breaking the law.

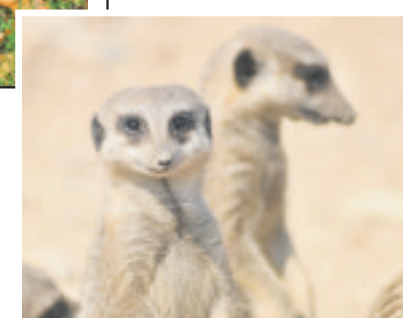
Jim Stevenson, Head of HMRC Taskforces said: "We don't want to have to seize goods, especially at this time of year, but the minority of unscrupulous traders who don't declare the full amount of tax on these imported goods must shoulder the responsibility for these actions."

"HMRC will use its powers to seize goods to stop this type of fraud and make sure there is a level playing field for legitimate and honest businesses trading in the UK. Hardworking, law-abiding businesses should not have to compete against those who can undercut them by cheating on their taxes."

"This new taskforce will help us to ensure individuals and businesses who sell online from abroad, but don't declare the correct amount of tax on goods sold, will pay what they owe like the rest of us do."



SLOW DOWN SO I CAN COUNT YOU: Armed with clipboards, calculators and cameras, zookeepers at London Zoo welcomed in the new year with the annual animal stocktake. Caring for more than 750 different species, the zoo's staff faced the challenging task of tallying up every mammal, bird, reptile, fish and invertebrate at the zoo. 2015 saw the arrival of many new animals at the Regent's Park attraction, from the world's first zoo-bred Lake Oku clawed frogs, to a lively litter of 11 African hunting dog puppies. Adding to those, Edward the two-toed sloth was born in July, while December saw the birth of a Western lowland gorilla – all of which were included on the 2016 census. Pictured above is vet Tai Strike and a Galapagos tortoise.



Mayor and minister promise united approach over Euston redevelopment

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson and Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin have pledged to work with the borough of Camden, Network Rail and HS2 Ltd, to ensure the smooth running of rail and construction projects that aim to transform the Euston area.

A new strategic board will be established to advise the Secretary of State on the development of the sta-

tion during the construction of High Speed 2 (HS2) and any plans for the wider area.

The board will look at the new HS2 station, and proposals for both the redevelopment of the existing Network Rail station and for a potential new Crossrail 2 station.

Together these proposals would help to transform this part of central London, leading to a huge increase

in transport capacity and connectivity in the area, as well as helping to support major economic development, including thousands of new homes and jobs.

The board will include representatives from the Department for Transport, the borough of Camden, Transport for London, the Greater London Authority, HS2 Ltd and Network Rail. It will focus on how

to ensure co-ordination between projects to maximise development opportunities and reduce disruption to passengers and communities caused by construction work.

Mr Johnson said: "HS2 provides a once-in-a-lifetime chance to transform the Euston area. I welcome the commitment by the Secretary of State to establish a new joint board to oversee the wider redevelopment

of Euston, including HS2, plans for the redevelopment of the existing Network Rail station and proposals for Crossrail 2. Together, these schemes will deliver up to 3,000 homes and 14,000 jobs."

Mr McLoughlin said: "HS2's plans for Euston are the first step towards creating a station of which the local community and national passengers can be proud."



■ **PLEDGE:** Boris Johnson.

Greens: we'll stop beer, bra and sweet advertisers in their tracks

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ADVERTISING beer, bras and Jelly Babies on the Tube will be outlawed under a "Green-up" of the Underground if Sian Berry is elected as the next mayor of London.

In a "No sex please, we're Greenish" election move, Ms Berry wants to see all sexist advertising banned from Tube stations and on buses.

Besides a "Tube boob" blackout, the Green Party candidate also wants to ban all advertising of alcohol, pay-day loans, ads for betting shops and children's sweets.

If elected mayor, the popular Camden councillor will order Transport for London to stop accepting adverts like the controversial 'Are you beach body ready?' poster for Proteinworld, which sparked 378 complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority last year – although the ASA ruled that the ad was "neither offensive or irresponsible".

The new ruling would also mean that advertising agencies would have to devise new ways of promoting lingerie and steer clear of posters like the infamous "Hello Boys" ad, which starred top model Eva Herzigova and was blamed for

causing traffic accidents.

"Each of us spends more than 13 hours a month involuntarily reading adverts placed strategically on our public transport infrastructure. That's why a body like TfL ought to have a strong ethical policy for which adverts it accepts," said Ms Berry.

"I would ban advertising aimed at children, sexist content, and payday loans and gambling companies that prey on the least well-off.

"I would include adverts aimed at children in the ban, which I think would mean nearly all sweets were included.

"I will indeed include a ban on alcohol advertising as part of my ethical advertising policy for TfL. Ideally, we would want legislative change at a national level so there is a level playing field and a consistent approach.

"But my vision is for TfL to lead the way on such measures, which is why as mayor I would ban the promotion of alcohol products from any advertising spaces under the mayor's control."

It is Green Party policy to "recognise that not all freedoms may be appropriate for children" and in its manifesto it pledges to "move to ban all advertising targeted at children of primary school age and under".

Therefore, as mayor Sian

Berry could also instruct TfL to forbid posters for toy shops like Hamley's and Disney film releases.

A ban on alcohol sports sponsorship has been widely called for by health experts and was advocated by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Nice) as long ago as 2009.

Nice said: "Evidence shows that exposure to alcohol advertising is associated with the onset of drinking among children and young people – and increased consumption among those who already drink."

But the Portman Group, the UK's alcohol self-regulatory body, says there is "no reason why drinks companies shouldn't sponsor sport as long as they do so responsibly".

But Ms Berry argues that a TfL ban on advertising of allegedly offensive or damaging products would not lose money for the transport authority, as the space could be taken up by cheap ads on the Tube and buses for small businesses.

She said: "Small businesses should get discounted advertising space at their nearest Tube station to help support the local economy.

"This policy is based on an idea I put to the London Borough of Camden, where it is currently under development, in my capacity as a councillor.

"I don't believe this would lead to a drop in income. Even with restrictions, there would be plenty of acceptable advertisers willing to reach this vast market with their messages. If we managed to sign up more employers to pay the living wage into the bargain, that would be win-win for Londoners."

Ms Berry also said only firms paying the London Living Wage should be permitted to advertise on London's transport network.



■ **CRACKDOWN:** Green Party mayor candidate Sian Berry would outlaw controversial advertising on the Underground.



■ **PROTEST:** Proteinworld's advert prompted complaints.



■ **LOADS OF INTEREST:** London Gateway container port has welcomed one of the world's largest container ships – carrying a recorded 18,601 containers. The UASC owned Al Muraykh called at the deep-sea London Gateway to unload 3,800 containers. The ship is one of the largest in the world, measuring 400 metres in length. The containers are loaded 11 storeys high above deck and 23 containers across the ship. With thousands more stowed below deck, the ship can carry up to 18,800 containers. The ship left Malaysia's Port Klang carrying the most ever shipping containers on board a vessel and arrived at DP World London Gateway Port as its first port of call in Europe. Many of the goods being unloaded will be on the high streets of the UK now for the January sales.

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Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3DA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
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Kensington & Chelsea NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
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North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Academy Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & CHRONICLE</small> pick up points			
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Hammersmith CHRONICLE <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & CHRONICLE</small> pick up points			
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & CHRONICLE</small> pick up points			
Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

Hotel still a top draw, 50 years on

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE 50th anniversary of the 1966 World Cup Draw at the Kensington Royal Garden Hotel was celebrated last week.

The luxury five-star accommodation hosted the all-important draw ahead of the tournament and then staged the reception afterwards to celebrate England's famous win.

Situated in the heart of Kensington, the hotel has often been the place of stay for many internationally famous sports teams travelling to London, while The Beatles and Justin Bieber have also been greeted by their loyal fans outside The Royal Garden's premises.

The hotel, which first opened in 1965, has been

celebrating its 50th anniversary by looking back at the variety of sports stars who decided to use it as a base during their time in the capital.

Last Tuesday, four of that victorious England World Cup squad were back at The Royal Garden Hotel, in the same room, reminiscing. They were Sir Geoff Hurst, who scored a memorable hat-trick in the final, Martin Peters, George Cohen and goalkeeper Gordon Banks.

The hotel was also the venue for the team's celebratory dinner the night after they lifted the Jules Rimet trophy.

Sir Geoff Hurst told ITV news that no wives or girlfriends were allowed into the dinner.

"It's something my wife is constantly reminding me



■ PART OF HISTORY: The Royal Garden Hotel today, above, and staging the 1966 World Cup draw, inset right.

about," he said. And Gordon Banks added: "I found it absolutely shocking" that the women had to wait in an ante room whilst their husbands tucked into their meal.

Last week's event also brought back memories of the squad's famous balcony appearance with the cup, above thousands of fans who'd come to celebrate

England's historic triumph.

"I couldn't believe how many people had come to see us," Banks told ITV journalists.

Both men said they were hopeful England could win another major tournament soon.

In 1966 England were placed alongside Uruguay, France and Mexico in Group 1 in the World Cup draw, which took part at The Royal Garden Hotel.

The Three Lions drew their opening match against Uruguay before beating both Mexico and France 2-0.

Legends such as Sir Bobby Charlton, his brother Jack and Sir Geoff Hurst were among the players to attend a reception held at the hotel following England's 4-2 final win against West Germany.

Supporters crowded outside the hotel the following day as they looked to get a close glimpse of the World Cup-winning players.



The Royal Garden Hotel, which has 394 rooms, has also often been used by FA Cup finalists and sides who have travelled from across the world to face Premier League champions Chelsea.

It doesn't stop at football teams either, with New Zealand, Australia and South Africa all choosing to stay in Kensington ahead of matches against England at Twickenham Stadium.

And the same goes for cricket, with the hotel often hosting visiting international teams when they are playing at Lord's or The Oval. It was also the base for Australia when they won the 1999 World Cup, and was the home for several teams during the Champions Trophy in both 2004 and 2013.

To commemorate their 50th anniversary, the hotel has created a memory book.



■ ROYAL APPOINTMENT: The Queen greets Bobby Moore in 1966.

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Night Tube: new strike fears

LONDON'S Night Tube faces further delays after it emerged this week that hundreds more Underground workers are to be balloted for strike action over pay and conditions.

Unions announced that 1,300 more London Underground staff are set to vote on industrial walkouts as the pay row continues.

The workers are part of the Tube Lines company, which maintains and upgrades the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines – three of the five lines on which the Night Tube is planning to use.

The other two lines are the

Central and Victoria lines.

The RMT union has said it expects overwhelming support for a strike, and has already won enough support from workers to order thousands of Tube staff to strike.

The union must give a minimum of seven days' notice before a strike.

Walkouts could take place from about the middle of next month.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "Our Tube Lines members have been offered the same deal on pay and Night Tube as their own LU colleagues and our reps have

clearly rejected it as wholly unsatisfactory. Now we move to a ballot of our members for both strike action and action short of a strike.

"The RMT has made it clear that with growing numbers of Tube users and planned expansion of the service, the staff in all grades who are expected to keep the railway running must be respected and their efforts properly rewarded."

Steve Griffiths, London Underground chief operating officer, repeated statements made in November that 180 part-time drivers are being taken on to run Night Tube.

Great Scot! Look who's talking! Salmond gets London radio slot

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

OUTSPOKEN Scottish politician Alex Salmond is to host his own radio show on LBC starting this week.

The former First Minister north of the border a passionate campaigner for Scottish independence, now hopes to reach a whole new audience by hosting a weekly phone-in on the popular London radio station.

From Wednesday, Mr Salmond – who once described London as the “dark star of the economy, inexorably sucking in resources” – will host a 30-minute talkshow on LBC.

Billed as “honest, straight talking... with a bit of fun”, the show will follow the same format as that of former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, who had a slot on Thursday mornings until he was voted out of office at last year's General Election.

LBC hosts a monthly *Ask Boris* programme with the mayor of London Boris Johnson, as well as a fortnightly *Phone Farage* with UKIP leader Nigel Farage.

Listeners will be able to call, text, email and send Twitter messages to the Scottish National Party's foreign affairs spokesman at Westminster, who has been reported as saying he is “unburdened from office” and promises to “shoot straight from the hip”.

In a broadcast clip ahead of his first show, Mr Salmond reveals a weakness for dark chocolate Bounty bars in response to a comment that “if Alex Salmond was chocolate he would be dark and bitter”.

He also read out a tweet from another listener who quipped that the former first minister has “Fuzzy-Felt eyebrows”.

The timing of his slot between 4pm and 4.30pm, soon after Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Com-



■ **INDEPENDENCE DAY: Scottish firebrand Alex Salmond is to broadcast to Londoners on LBC, starting this week.**

mons, has led to suggestions that Mr Salmond could upstage the SNP's Westminster leader Angus Robertson, as well as his successor as First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Liberal Democrat MSP Tavish Scott told *The Scotsman* newspaper: “The last thing Nicola Sturgeon will want is for him to be given free rein for his increasingly bizarre pronouncements while his SNP minders are trapped on the wrong side of the glass outside of the studio.”

Mr Salmond, who returned to Westminster in May after a five-year absence, also drew criticism for accepting additional paid work on top of his salaries as the Aberdeenshire East MSP and the MP for Gordon.

As an MP Mr Salmond takes home £67,000 a year. He donates both his MSP salary and pension to the Mary Salmond Trust charity, named in honour of his mother and founded in 2007. He is also believed to earn around £2,000 a week for newspaper columns.

Mr Salmond's office would not reveal how much Mr Salmond is being paid to host the LBC show, but confirmed the cash would not go to charity.

■ Starting on January 13th, *The Alex Salmond Phone-in* on LBC will be live every Wednesday from 4pm during Iain Dale's show. Listen on 97.3FM in London, on digital radio or on LBC's mobile apps anywhere you are.

More trees on the cards

LONDONERS are being urged to recycle their Christmas cards in a bid to see more trees planted in the UK.

Marks & Spencer has pledged to plant one tree for every 1,000 cards recycled in stores and has set an ambitious target to collect and recycle more than six million cards across the UK, which would mean more than 6,000 new trees in the ground.

Ben Spearpoint, store manager at M&S in Kensington, said: “We're urging residents to use our Christmas card recycling boxes in order to ensure that we can meet our ambitious target and plant 6,000 new trees in the UK.”

The Woodland Trust's Joanne Mathieson said: “The benefits of tree cover have never been clearer. Our forests, woods and trees play a vital role in reducing the impact of climate change and protecting our important ecosystems. Placing a card in your usual green wheellie bin is fantastic and allows us to get the maximum benefit from every piece of paper, but M&S' Christmas card collection boxes go even better than this: they also directly allow us to plant more woodland and grow new homes for hundreds of species, from dormice to woodpeckers, beetles to butterflies.”

Special card collection bins will be in M&S stores until January 31.

Boffins chart deadly viruses

EXPERTS at University College London and the Zoological Society of London have warned that sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia are most at risk from bat viruses jumping to humans and causing new diseases that could lead to deadly outbreaks.

They have produced a ‘risk map’ that shows risk levels are due to a variety of factors – including large numbers of different bat viruses found locally, increasing population pressure, and hunting bats for bushmeat.

Around 60 to 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases are so-called “zoonotic events” – where animal diseases jump

into people – and bats in particular are known to carry many zoonotic viruses.

The tiny animals are the suspected origin of rabies, Ebola, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and possibly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and could cause other as yet unknown epidemics in future.

Scientists at UCL, the Zoological Society of London and Edinburgh University aimed to map out the highest-risk areas, using a variety of factors including large numbers of bat viruses found locally, increasing population pressure, and hunting bats for bushmeat.

Kate Jones, UCL's chair of ecology and biodiversity, explained that her team first created risk maps for each variable and found, for example, that in mapping for potential human-bat contact, sub-Saharan Africa was a hotspot, while for diversity of bat viruses, South America was shown to be at most risk.

“By combining the separate maps, we've created the first global picture of the overall risks of bat viruses infecting humans in different regions,” she said.

The work was published in journal *The American Naturalist*.

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Capital focus on greats of photography

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS will be able to celebrate photography across the capital in May, with an initiative called *Photo London* at Somerset House the focal point for city-wide exhibitions and events.

Here are some of the main highlights:

■ A hand-picked selection of 80 of the world's top galleries will participate in *Photo London 2016*, exhibiting photography for sale from all periods and genres in the spectacular setting of Somerset House, *Photo London's* central campus, over a period of four days from May 19 to 22. The list of exhibitors includes galleries from Berlin, Cologne, Helsinki, Lisbon, Zurich, Tehran, Minneapolis, New York, Palm Beach, Santa Monica, Singapore and Tokyo alongside the pick of London's top photography galleries, with an extended 'Discov-



■ **SUCCESS: Photo London will be mainly based in Somerset House.**

ery' section for new and emerging galleries.

■ The legendary war photographer Don McCullin has been named as the *Photo London* Master of Photography 2016. He will be the subject of a special exhibition of his work at Somerset House, presented by *Photo London* in association with Hamiltons Gallery. *Photo London* will also present a rare opportunity to meet McCullin in a public conversation at Somerset House with Tate Photography Curator Simon Baker on Thursday, May 19.

■ There will be a series of site-specific commissions for *Photo London*, including one by two acclaimed young stars of the London art scene, Walter and Zoniol.

■ At the Embankment Galleries at Somerset House there will be an exhibition by Turner Prize nomi-

nated artist Craigie Horsfield curated by the Wilson Centre for Photography. The Wilson Centre is the private collection of Michael G Wilson OBE.

■ The celebrated Moscow Multimedia Art Museum (formerly Moscow House of Photography) is the only museum in Russia to have a specialised programme of festivals and projects. Olga Sviblova, its director, will curate a special exhibition for *Photo London* at Somerset House of contemporary Russian photography.

■ A stellar line-up of top international photographers will participate in the *Photo London* Public Programme, both on site at Somerset House and off-site in locations across London including the Whitechapel Art Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, the Photographers' Gallery and the Hayward Gallery as well as at Somerset House.

■ A programme of talks and symposia at Somerset House is curated by William A Ewing, distinguished curator and writer on photography, former Director of Musée de l'Elysée and Director of Exhibitions at the International Center of Photography in New York.

■ London's public museums and galleries will put the spotlight on photography in May: Martin Parr will curate *Strange and Familiar: Britain as Revealed by International Photographers* at the Barbican Art Gallery; at the National Portrait Gallery their special exhibition will be *Vogue 100: A Century of Style*; at the Science Museum/Media Space the work of William Henry Fox Talbot will be featured; the V&A will present *Paul Strand: Photography and Film for the 20th Century*, and *A History of Photography*; Tate Modern will present *Performing for the Camera*, as well as host *Offprint London - A Photobook Fair* and Tate Britain will present *Painting with Light: Art and Photography from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Modern Age* the Photographers Gallery will present Deutsche Börse Foundation Photography Prize 2016 and Take Two: Drawing and Photography; Camden Arts Centre will feature the work of Stefan and Franciszka Themerson.

■ Sotheby's, Christies and Phillips will all hold major photography sales during *Photo London* week.



■ **IN THE FRAME:** Some of the iconic images of world photography will feature in *Photo London*, a season celebrating great pictures and the people who captured them, based in Somerset House. Pictured here are, 1 - Sheep going to the slaughter, early morning near the Caledonian Road, London, 1965, by Don McCullin; 2 - The Bogside, Derry, Northern Ireland, 1971, also by McCullin; 3 - Celebrated photographer Don McCullin; 4 - Lindsay, by Walter and Zoniol; 5 - The Queen, by Rankin.



Food company and contractor fined over asbestos offences at work site

A WEST London food company and their contractor have been fined after asbestos was disturbed during building work and only identified by chance when an asbestos removal contractor attended site.

Stafford Crown Court heard no asbestos survey had been carried out by Mizkan Euro Ltd of Chiswick or DH Welton & Co Ltd and either company could have commissioned a refurbishment/demolition before the work

started. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found Mizkan Euro Ltd were undertaking a project to remove tanks from a factory which required the demolition of an external wall. They failed to provide an asbestos survey to enable contractor DH Welton to quote and plan appropriately for the work. It also found that DH Welton could have commissioned a survey when they discovered Mizkan only had access to a management survey for the building.

When the wall was demolished asbestos insulation board was unknowingly broken up. A skip of debris was found to contain asbestos insulation board, which had been identified by an asbestos contractor who had been called to the site. For the work to be undertaken correctly, a licensed asbestos removal contractor should have been appointed to remove the

asbestos under controlled conditions prior to the wall being demolished.

Mizkan Euro Ltd of Chiswick Park, Chiswick High Road, pleaded guilty to breaching sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act after failing to plan and manage the work carried out under their control without ensuring that risks to health and safety are prevented. It was fined £60,000 for each charge and ordered to pay costs of £13,589.

D H Welton & Co Ltd of Corn Street, Failsforth, Manchester admitted breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act and regulation 5(1)(a) Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 after failing to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment as to whether asbestos was present or liable to be present during the removal of a wall. It was fined £15,000 for each charge plus costs of £4,529.



■ **CASE:** Stafford Crown Court.

LONDON WIDE

LWN

Under the Westway



FOR many of us January is an opportunity to reflect on our health and fitness, **writes Westway Trust chief executive Angela McConville.**

Maybe we've over-indulged during the festivities of December and are now taking up gym memberships, joining fitness classes or dusting off the yoga mat. I'm not going to use my column just to talk about all the great offers at Westway Sports and Fitness at the moment, but you might be interested to know that, among other offers, if you sign up for six months' fitness membership you currently get a month free!

Back to the topic at hand, I thought now would be a good time, with many of us thinking about our health, to consider how the Westway estate might be used to support the health and well-being of more of the community.

I think there are two particular areas where Westway Trust can make a great contribution. The first is in making sure that the Westway estate has state-of-the-art facilities that fulfil as many requirements of the community as possible, and the second is that we make sure we remove barriers to participating in sports and fitness.

The Westway Sports and Fitness facilities have built a strong reputation in London as a beacon site for sport, visited over half a million times a year and enjoying the support of organisations like Sport England, the Lawn Tennis Association, and the Football Association, as well as many local schools and grassroots community sports organisations. Unfortunately it's a long time since we have been able to make significant investment and we are at risk of falling short of the high standards our communities deserve. We know that with the land available, we can intensify and strengthen what we offer and that we can create many more inspiring and innovative opportunities. This is why our Westway 2030 plan sets out an ambition not just for the future of Westway Sports Centre, but for a sports village, offering the very best in a range of sports and innovative facilities which suit our very urban setting.

In our planning we have to be aware that the government have reduced the amount of funding available for investment in sports facilities. This means we have to be imaginative in finding new forms of partnership, funding and investment.

Part of our planned solution is to find a not-for-profit partner who will work alongside us to run the facilities day-to-day while we retain all ownership and strategic oversight. Partnering with a not-for-profit expert operator allows us to combine our experience and buying power to improve services and inject significant investment.

Having the right health and well-being programmes that encourage more people to take up exercise remain at the heart of our plans. We have made progress here. Our GP referral scheme was named the 'Best Rehabilitation Scheme' in the country in 2014 and has resulted in more than 2,000 local people with health issues being prescribed subsidised gym sessions and access to training and guidance to set them on a road to a healthier lifestyle. At the other end of the scale the Trust's Tim Davis Sports Scholarships provide extra funding to young people of outstanding sporting potential who might otherwise not be able to access training, equipment or competitions. The programme started last year funding athletes in weightlifting, climbing and squash and is set to grow in 2016.

There is huge opportunity for us to expand and improve the sports and fitness facilities under the Westway, and our ambition is to have one million visits a year to the sports estate in the future. I'd welcome your ideas on how we can support community health and well-being through Westway Sports and Fitness and elsewhere. I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy 2016 and I look forward to hearing from you.



■ **GREEN PARTY:** Kensington and Chelsea council is seeking volunteers to help with dead hedging and planting in Holland Park. 'If you want to get close to nature in the New Year why not come along and help with conservation work in Holland Park?' says the council. The practical sessions, which are organised by the Royal Borough's Ecology Service, run every third Saturday. The first session of 2016 takes place on Saturday, January 16, and likely jobs include helping clear the pond, dead hedging and planting. The session runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm and tea, gloves, tools and instruction will be provided. Wear sturdy shoes and meet at Holland Park Cafe. If you cannot make Saturday there will be other opportunities on Saturday, February 20 and Saturday, March 19. For more information contact the Ecology Services: phone 020 7938 8166 or email ecology_centre@rbkc.gov.uk

Council defies critics on Crossrail 2 station plan

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council has set out its case for a Crossrail 2 station in the King's Road – claiming it will reduce traffic pollution that currently kills one in 12 people in the borough.

In its formal submission to Transport for London's consultation, the council – which anti-Crossrail campaigners say is "out of touch" with residents – argues that the line will "significantly improve public transport connectivity".

"About 5,000 households will, for the first time, be within ten minutes of a train station and journey times between the heart of Chelsea and important locations such as the City and West End, Gatwick and Clapham Junction would be slashed," said the Council.

"A station would also reduce the congestion that blights Chelsea's roads and improve the poor air quality that is a factor in one in twelve deaths in the royal borough.

As well as setting out the benefits of the £1.2 billion scheme, the council's submission also welcomes TfL's decision to locate the station on Sydney Street, SW3, rather than at the fire station as previously proposed.

"The Sydney Street site is less residential, closer to local bus routes and would not require the temporary use of Dovehouse Green as a worksite," it said.

In terms of scale and design, the council also welcomes TfL's decision to opt for "a minimalist single storey glass structure between two existing buildings with little or none of the commercial development that No campaigners claimed there would be".

However, although the council found much to praise in TfL's current proposals, it also emphasised the importance of construction methods to minimise lorry

movements and other disturbance and added that it would "scrutinise the construction methods very closely... in order to ensure the station is built in the least disruptive way for residents, business and visitors."

On the vital question of ground settlement the council welcomes "TfL's commitment to working with Historic England to ensure the protection of important buildings and conservation areas" and "draws comfort from the fact that on Crossrail 1, on larger excavations than envisaged for Chelsea, reports of settlement were at the minor end of the scale."

In its conclusion, the submission acknowledges and discusses the local opposition to a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea.

"While accepting that many residents, and some businesses too, have not been persuaded by the case for a station, the council argues that it is regrettable the debate has been held against a background of unsupported claims."

The document can be read at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Commenting on the submission, the council's Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, Cllr Tim Coleridge, said: "When taken together, we believe the benefits of Crossrail 2, in terms of journey transformation, increased commerce, better air quality and less congestion, outweigh the legitimate but addressable concerns about the station and about construction and ground settlement."

"We have already seen concerns about the station convincingly dealt with by TfL. Our focus now is on construction methods to ensure that traffic disruption, lorry movements and settlement, if any, are kept to the minimum."

However, the council has come in for a bashing from the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaigners for supporting the rail plan, which the antis say will whack up business rates.

Chris Lenon, chairman of the campaign, said: "We have been overwhelmed

by the level of support for our campaign. The residents oppose a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea, our businesses oppose, our historic Chelsea Society opposes, our hospitals oppose.

"Celebrities such as Felicity Kendal, Trevor Eve, Loyd Grossman, Sir Alan Parker, Mark Knopfler, Wilbur Smith, William Boyd, Cherie Lunghi, Nancy Dell'Olio, Nicky Haslam and Sol Campbell have all spoken out. Former WH Smith boss, Sir Malcolm Field, leading businessman, Sir Simon Robertson, and recruitment tycoon, Robert Walters, have joined us – and the council is increasingly isolated.

"Why do we not want this station? Because there is no transport case, no business case and it would be a scandalous waste of public funds. It would be the only new station on the line – and the only one without an interchange with other lines. It would force business rates up by 50 per cent, forcing out the quirky and unique independent businesses that make Chelsea special.

"Some 240 listed buildings will be put at risk, the Brompton and Marsden Hospitals say the proposal will stop their vital expansion plans, it will result in at least the partial closure of the King's Road for up to eight years and – above all – it will waste a huge sum of public money in London's richest village, money that could be better spent on an area of London in desperate need of regeneration.

"The council continues with its spurious assertions and seems obdurate in not being able to accept the views of its own electorate, who do not need and do not want this station.

"Our supporters have spoken in their thousands, by both signing our petition and responding to TfL's public consultation. We have demonstrated that the council is out of touch with residents and local businesses and that plans for this £1.2 billion mega station on the King's Road should be scrapped immediately."

Fresh calls to pedestrianise Oxford Street

THE next London Mayor has been urged to speed up the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street by experts who say the over-crowded area "is at breaking point".

Current mayor Boris Johnson has announced that officials are drawing up plans to increase safety and improve public access on Oxford Street. Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, says pedestrianising at least part of the street is vital to achieving these aims and must remain in the plans.

Last month the charity launched a call for the next London Mayor to pedestrianise Oxford Street so that it becomes an iconic, safe and enjoyable place.

"In recent years, the amount of space available to all has got smaller as more and more shoppers flock to the capital's major high street, making it a more dangerous place," said Sarah Williams, Living Streets' London Campaigns Manager.

"I'm pleased to see that plans are being drawn up to pedestrianise Oxford Street. At the launch of our campaign in December we recommended pedestrianising part of London's most iconic street so it's great to see this is being considered. We would be happy to advise the Mayor about how to make our national high street fit for walking.

"Oxford Street is already at breaking point. It's horrendously overcrowded and with Crossrail due to open in 2018 we're looking at a significantly bigger problem.

"We must act now to reduce overcrowding, sky high pollution levels and an unsafe environment. We urge officials to think to a positive future, where walking is put first."

Oxford Street is Europe's busiest retail street and every six days a person gets hit by a vehicle there.

Sarah Williams added: "People want to see change on Oxford Street. As it is, it's a very uncomfortable place for pedestrians, leaving them feeling restricted, so it's little surprise that people say the change they'd most like to see there is less traffic.

"Oxford Street is at the heart of London and should be an iconic place for tourists (who make up 50 per cent of visitors) and residents to enjoy. But current projections by Transport for London are that without a radically different approach to our transport system, there will be increases in congestion of 60 per cent in Central London and 25 per cent in Inner London by 2031.

"We want to create a walking nation, free from congested roads and pollution, reducing the risk of preventable illness and social isolation and making walking the natural choice. We believe that a walking nation means progress for everyone."

Estate revamp

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is looking at the possibility of regenerating the Silchester estate in North Kensington and is inviting estate residents to meet the architects, Porphyrios Associates.

A drop-in session, to look at options, will take place on Monday, January 18 at Latymer Community Church, 116 Bramley Road, London W10 6SU from 4pm to 7.30pm.

The drop-in is a chance for residents to give their views on what, if anything, they would like to see considered. At this early stage there are no designs to view but any regeneration project will create better homes for existing and future residents, more affordable housing and an improved built environment.

ROYAL LONDON

Bells ring for a most special royal birthday

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A MASS ringing of bells at up to 1,000 churches in London and 50,000 across the UK will sound at lunchtime on Sunday, June 12 as the capital and the nation wish The Queen a happy 90th birthday.

Between 12 noon and 2pm, bells will sound in every borough, town and village throughout the land to coincide with The Patron's Lunch, Britain's biggest-ever picnic, which will be led in London when The Queen hosts a lunch for 10,000 guests in Pall Mall.

Most of the guests will be representatives of the more than 600 organisations of which Her Majesty is patron. They will dine at trestle tables to be erected the entire length of The Mall. On each table there will be a royal picnic hamper supplied by organisers who are led by The Queen's grandson Peter Phillips, whose company Sports & Entertainment Ltd are staging the huge event.

Beside The Queen, royal guests

will include Prince Philip, Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry and many other members of the UK's first family.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has confirmed that bells will provide the soundtrack for the birthday bash. In an alert to its members, the council wrote: "Ringing is likely to be very appropriate at almost any time everywhere over that weekend, especially if it fits in with any local celebrations planned."

"But the Palace has agreed that special ringing should take place at lunchtime on the Sunday, to coincide with the Patron's Lunch, particularly as this would be an unusual time for ringing in many towers. Ringers are therefore encouraged to arrange special ringing at some point between 12 noon and 2pm that day."

As the bells of St Clement's are prepared to peal oranges and lemons, organisers are keen to encourage communities in all London boroughs to take part too by staging their own street picnic parties.

"As well as the main event on The Mall, we are also aiming to inspire as many people as we can to host street

parties of their own for the direct benefit of their community. I hope that people in Britain and across the Commonwealth dust off their picnic tables and join us in celebrating this very special occasion," said Mr Phillips, who is the son of Princess Anne.

"At the very heart of The Patron's Lunch is a desire to give the British and Commonwealth public the chance to not only honour and thank Her Majesty's extraordinary commitment to others, but to also inspire communities the length and breadth of the nations to do the same."

"The Patron's Lunch will look to re-ignite the famous British 'community spirit' and have villages, towns and cities all over the UK and across the Commonwealth to hold their own street parties. It is hoped these local 'Patron's Lunches' will help raise money for their own communities and local initiatives."

One organisation which has benefited from The Queen's support over many years is The Scouts. Chief Scout, Bear Grylls said: "I'm so excited about this massive community celebration. As Scouts, we're incredibly proud to have Her Majesty The Queen as our Patron and her lifetime of service to others is truly inspirational."

"We look forward to celebrating not only on The Mall, but right across the United Kingdom. As Chief Scout I would like to say a huge thanks to The Queen. Let's make her proud!"

The Patron's Lunch will be the climax to a weekend of celebrations. It will begin with a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday, June 10, followed by Trooping the Colour on Saturday, June 11 and culminate in the picnic as the celebratory finale.



■ NATIONAL TRIBUTE: Church bells will ring out for the Queen.

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What you need to know about bell ringing

■ The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is the body for all who ring bells in the English tradition with rope and wheel, the majority of whom practise the art of change ringing. Founded in 1891, the council today represents 65 affiliated societies, which cover all parts of the British Isles as well as centres of ringing in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, South Africa and Italy. These societies in turn comprise the members of

the local companies of ringers in their areas.

■ For centuries church bells have been chimed with ropes and levers attached to the headstocks from which the bells were hung. The replacement of levers by wheels, which began in 16th century England, gave the ringers better control of their bells, allowing sets of bells (rings) to be rung in systematically changing patterns. This process is called

change ringing.

■ Today there are more than 40,000 change-ringers in the British Isles and smaller numbers in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Southern Africa and the USA. They are young and old, men and women, short and tall, girls and boys, non-musical and musical, church-goers and non-churchgoers. They come from all walks of life, but they share a fascinating hobby and a commitment to their team.



■ NATIONAL NOSH-UP: There will be a spectacular Patron's Lunch in Pall Mall.

ROYAL LONDON

Roll up, roll up... everything must go! Her Majesty's royal rarities for sale

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THEY'RE changing plates at Buckingham Palace and anyone with a nose for a future *Antiques Roadshow* 'find' ought to get down there sharpish.

Or rather, get onto the website for The Queen's own curiosity shop, where there are investments to be had.

The Royal Collection Trust site, which acts as the market stall for Her Majesty's memorabilia, is shortly to be changing stock as a whole emporium of new items – crockery, jewellery, homeware and accessories – will soon be introduced to mark The Queen's 90th birthday and the Duke of Edinburgh's 95th.

The items will be manufactured in their thousands, so there

will be few opportunities to buy anything rare.

But anyone with £4,240 to invest could make a future killing by picking up the best of the Royal Collection's limited editions, which are getting close to selling out. Many of the Royal Collection's limited editions of royal memorabilia are produced in batches of 750, thus somewhat stretching the concept of 'limited'. But a handful of souvenirs have been made only in editions of 100 and these are collectors' pieces.

Mind you, they are not cheap. But they will rise in value because of their scarcity.

■ First up is the *Buckingham Palace Carriage Clock*, originally made in an edition of just 100 and yours for £2,250.

The Palace says: "This carriage clock has been specially commissioned from Mappin & Webb Ltd London. The enamelled face shows an exclusive design of the State Crown, the rose for England, the thistle for Scotland and the shamrock for Northern Ireland. The clock has an eight-day duration and should be wound up every week on the same day. The English-made escapement is precision set for accuracy and will not need adjustment."

■ The next grab for investors is the *Frogmore Teacup and Saucer*, £395 each or just under £2,000 for a tea party set of six of those that are left from the only 100 that were made.

The Palace says: "The design of this beautiful teacup and



■ £2,250: Buckingham Palace Carriage Clock.

saucer is inspired by an original piece from the Royal Collection displayed in Frogmore House in Windsor Home Park. Attributed to William Lowe of Staffordshire, it was made to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887.

"Handmade from English fine bone china, finished using 22 carat burnished gold, using the same techniques used to create the original, including a hand applied pink background overlaid with hand-raised gold work in burnished gold, each teacup and saucer is fired up to 10 separate times. The design shows the Union Flags and national flowers of the United Kingdom; sprays of roses, thistles and shamrocks."

■ You'll be needing a teapot to go with that, so why not drop

another £595 on an exact replica of *George III's teapot*, of which only 100 were made. The Palace says the teapot has been re-modelled directly from George III's breakfast service, which is kept in the Royal Pantry at Windsor Castle. The service was commissioned by the King from the Worcester porcelain factory in 1805.

"It is beautifully decorated with the royal arms and a border pattern of oak garlands and enclosed sprigs of the national flowers of the United Kingdom; sprays of roses, thistles and shamrocks. It has been made using the techniques as the original, where the intense blue is created through the application of a cobalt-based colour fired into the glaze at high temperatures up to six times," says the Palace.

■ Finally, those with another £1,000 should invest in *The Queen's Mulberries*. Although this sounds like some sort of spectacularly-expensive fruit, it's a book. Although not just any old tome, the original copy of this book was commissioned by Mark Lane, the Royal Gardens Manager, to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Palace says: "It is a faithful reproduction of the original watercolours and text, a beautiful souvenir volume which contains a brief history of mulberry trees in Britain and their introduction under the royal patronage of James I, along with fully detailed botanical descriptions and illustrations of fourteen of the

mulberry taxa held in the National Collection of morus in the gardens of Buckingham Palace.

"Hand-bound in quarter leather with Japanese silk sides, silk endpapers and ribbon marker, gold tooled, and presented in a full cloth slipcase. Each copy is individually book plated and numbered, containing 68 pages with fourteen tipped-in colour illustrations."

Alternatively, you could hang on to your cash to spend it on the inevitable mountain of royal tat that will flood the market soon, not least because The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have generously relaxed the rules for those making souvenirs for their respective 90th and 95th birthdays this year.

Usually, "the use of the Royal Arms and of Royal Devices, Emblems and Titles, or of Arms, Devices, etc., which are so similar as to deceive, in connection with any trade or business, or to suggest that the person is employed by or supplies goods to a Member of the Royal Family, is prohibited

by the Trade Marks Act 1994, unless the permission of the Member of the Royal Family concerned has been obtained", and flouting those rules could find you banged up in the Tower.

But Buckingham Palace has announced that "The Queen has been pleased to approve that the rules governing the commercial use of Royal Photographs and Insignia may be temporarily relaxed to allow the use on certain souvenirs of Her Majesty's 90th birthday and the Duke of Edinburgh has likewise approved of certain of His Royal Highness's personal Arms, Cypher and Portraits being similarly used on souvenirs marking His Royal Highness's 95th Birthday."

In the past such easing of the rules has led to the production of all manner of tacky royal souvenirs, including face masks, jelly moulds in the shape of the Queen's head, William and Kate tea bags and Diamond Jubilee sick bags, all proving that there is definitely no accounting for taste.



Duke blazes a trail in finest fashion stakes

FOLLOWING 'the Kate Factor' now comes 'the Philip Vogue' – as the Duke of Edinburgh has been named the Royal Family's best-dressed man, whose sophisticated style is now copied by rock stars and Hollywood idols.

Kayne West, Sir Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts, Sir Elton John, Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr, Jack Nicholson, Sean Connery and Sir Alex Ferguson are just some of famously elegant who have turned to Prince Philip's top tailors to get the Duke Look.

And you could copy his wardrobe yourself, if you have around £56,000 going spare.

At the age of 94, Prince Philip has found himself leading the band of gentlemen seeking the ultimate in distinguished style, by winning the best-dressed royal accolade from GQ magazine.

"The Duke of Edinburgh embodies duty and decorum and this comes across effortlessly in the way that he dresses," says GQ.

"He is always British, mascu-

line and appropriate for his role."

Much of the reason for that is down to Prince Philip's long-time tailor John Kent of Kent, Haste & Lachter of Sackville Street in Piccadilly.

For five decades John Kent has been bespoke styling the Duke in a sober fashion that has become a model for the best-dressed businessmen, a discreet and distinguished combination of a single-breasted blue or grey suit with pale blue or white shirt, patterned silk tie and black shoes.

"He's not a great lover of Christmas tree bits," John Kent told Mansel Fletcher of The Financial Times.

"Single-breasted jackets; two-button front; four-button cuffs; no vents except on shooting stuff; no flaps on the pocket, just jetted; classic trousers – not baggy but with four full pleats."

John Kent began his training as a 15-year-old apprentice in the East End at Bernard's Bethnal Green. After five years he transferred to the West End, fur-

thering his knowledge of castles, frock coats and gaiters for the revered ecclesiastical and Court tailor Adeney & Boutrey, where he made breeches for the then Archbishop of Canterbury.

In 1966 he moved to Military and Royal tailor Hawes and Curtis, where he first began tailoring the Duke of Edinburgh. Fifty years on and now with partners shirt-maker Stephen Lachter and renowned cutter Terry Haste, their company holds the Duke's Royal Warrant.

"Our clients range from royalty down to the man in the street," said Terry Haste.

"We work with the finest fabrics and we obviously work with the finest tailors. The idea is that when we're making

a garment we're not actually just making a jacket or a pair of trousers, we're moulding that jacket to your size."

Mr Haste says bespoke clothing "actually lasts a hell of a lot longer" than

anything off the peg.

"If you work out the cost over a 10-year period it's actually cheaper to have a bespoke suit than to have a ready to wear suit."

As we here at the royal desk are always keen on saving a couple of quid, we had a quick flip through Kent, Haste & Lachter's site to see how much it might cost us to replicate the full Duke Look.

We picked out four two-piece suits from £3,000, three three-piece suits from £3,450, three jackets from £2,240, two brace of trousers from £760, two overcoats from £760, one morning suit from £4,600, four waistcoats from £640, a two-piece dinner suit from £3,400 and a velvet jacket from £2,410.

Clearly needing more than that, we chose 10 bespoke shirts from £195, 10 ties from £90, three bow ties at £45 a pop, four cravats for £320, a couple of pairs of braces at £65 each, 10 silk handkerchiefs at £55 each, seven pairs of socks at £21 a

pair and a dressing gown which came in at £350.

But we weren't finished yet. No gentleman wishing to emulate Prince Philip's look can walk around without shoes, so we surfed over to his shoemaker John Lobb to spend another ten grand on various pairs of the Philip II black classic, £1,045 a pair, and brogues for £780.

Following Prince Philip's Royal Warrant holders only, we then 'spent' £135 on a pair of Hunter wellies for weekend walks, £1,515 getting kitted out in a kilt and jacket from Kinloch Anderson Ltd and the best part of £500 on a couple of Barbour's, including the Duke's preferred style, the classic Northumbria.

After a quick trip down to His Royal Highness's barber, Truefitt & Hill of St James's, to drop £160 on the Full Grooming Experience [a haircut and a luxurious wet shave], we were £56,502 lighter.

But we didn't half look good, at least in our dreams.



■ STYLE GURU: The Duke of Edinburgh.



As millions of people start a new diet, research by Slimming World reveals that if people really want to lose weight for the long-term they need to learn to be kinder to themselves when they lapse. The survey of 1,722 slimmers found that 98% have experienced a slip up when losing weight, yet while self-criticism typically leads to comfort eating or giving up completely, when people learn to be kinder to themselves they quickly get back to healthy eating, lose weight and keep it off. Professor James Stubbs from Slimming World and the University of Derby said: *"It's inevitable that sometimes life gets in the way of our healthy intentions, but it's often how we respond emotionally to going off-track that determines our success. Learning to cope with lapses is key to successful weight loss in the long-term."*



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Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

THE tricks and scams of how those behind the scenes keep rock stars in the headlines are to be revealed in a new three-part series exploring the untold history of the music world and told by the producers, managers and PRs.

The BBC Four series *Music Moguls* begins this week and will expose the publicity thinking behind the great stunts like John and Yoko's bed-in, Madonna's sex book, The Beatles and others playing on rooftops, Kiss starring in a special edition Marvel Comic and Paul McCartney busking on the Tube.

"*Music Moguls* will take viewers on an exclusive tour of the music industry in the company of a small group of hugely-influential insiders who between them have shaped the face and sound of popular music," says the BBC.

"The series is a different take on the traditionally told tales of debauchery, excess and exaggeration recounted by the artists, the bands and their hangers-on. This is the secret – and untold – history of the pop and rock world from the mouths of the men and women who pull the strings from behind the scenes and a chance for the unsung heroes of the industry to take centre stage and reveal their secrets."

Episode one of *Music Moguls* meets the managers behind some of the most important moments in pop history, including Simon Napier-Bell, who launched the careers of artists throughout the decades, from The Yardbirds to Marc Bolan, to Wham!

The episode tells stories about legendary managers such as Elvis's Colonel Tom Parker, The Beatles' Brian Epstein, Led Zeppelin's Peter Grant, The Sex Pistols' Malcolm McLaren, and Don Arden who managed Small Faces, Black Sabbath and ELO.

Andrew Loog Oldham speaks about how he helped make The Rolling Stones one of the most successful bands of all time, Jon Landau explains how he saw the future of rock 'n' roll when he discovered Bruce Springsteen, and Scooter Braun talks about how he happened to click on a YouTube video of a young Justin Bieber.



■ COVER STORY: John and Yoko's famous bed-in was a hit with the press.

Exposed! How the PR machine makes sure rock stars stay in the headlines

Napier-Bell says: "Artists are so driven and motivated to that one point that they very, very frequently miss seeing all the opportunities which would help them get there. And managers are really opportunists, hired to harness themselves to the artist's motivation and one way or another, show them the way."

Episode two explores how producers create the signature sounds that have defined key periods in pop history, and looks at how advances in the technology behind production have shifted the musical landscape.

The episode includes examination into how David Bowie's seminal song *Heroes* was recorded, as producer Tony Visconti for the first time takes the audience through the isolated tracks of the recording. Nile Rodgers

gives an insight into his seismic contributions to pop, plus Trevor

Horn speaks about why he has been credited with inventing the 80s. And Paul Epworth explains how he created some of the biggest selling hits of our time, such as Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.

Nile Rodgers said: "The mystery of just turning an idea into an actual composition, a real performance, and getting those single special moments out of each person who is involved in the production. It's the most thrilling adventure I could ever imagine. It's like going out into space or something."

But the real fun stuff comes in episode three when

narrator and ace publicist Alan Edwards delves into the publicity plots that have helped shape some of the world's greatest artists.

We will hear how Alan and other major PRs, Barbara Charone and Andy Saunders, cultivate new bands, manage crises and attempt to maintain the reputation of their longstanding clients. They feature alongside artists Debbie Harry, Ozzy Osbourne, the Sex Pistols, Uriah Heep, Brett Anderson and Hugh Cornwell.

Edwards says: "We all know what a significant role PR plays in British public life nowadays, but not many people realise that its roots go back five decades ago to the start of the music business as we know it now."

"In this film I lift the lid on the unseen, uncredited, often unappreciated and unsung PRs that helped create an industry that now employs something like 60,000 people."

It will be interesting to see if the programme includes the 2003 PR scam that the Vatican had told Paul McCartney to turn down the volume for his show at the Coliseum for fear of waking The Pope, a story broadcast worldwide for weeks until somebody spotted that the press release announcing this was issued on April 1.



■ READ ALL ABOUT IT: Madonna's sex book hit the headlines.



■ BOSS: Jeremy Piven plays Harry Selfridge in the TV drama.

Surprises in store for Mr Selfridge

WELL I didn't know that; the free-spending Harry Selfridge, who has just returned to the screen for another series of decadence at the department store, actually died destitute.

The retail magnate's fall was in real life started by him larking around with The Dolly Sisters, the two Hungarian actress dancers who have just joined the series and who used to be paid £32,000 a night for titillating at the Moulin Rouge.

The trouble was that Jenny and Rose Dolly both shared a vice for gambling and although Dolly once won £1.3 million at baccarat during a night at the casino in Cannes, her addiction got the better of her and dragged Harry Selfridge down.

After Harry began an affair with Jenny Dolly she persuaded him to pay off her and her sister's frequent gambling debts – costing him £2.6 million. The besotted Harry offered Jenny £6.6 million to marry him but before she could she was badly injured in a car crash. Harry spent another fortune paying for her consequent plastic surgery but the two never wed.

Heartbroken Harry turned to gambling himself, losing heavily, and to showgirls. His gallivanting blurred his business sense so that he did not see coming the Great Depression, which wiped him out. He died in 1947 in a small flat in Putney, aged 89 and penniless.



■ COUNTRY GIRL: Could Liz Hurley move to Ambridge?

Oh, arr! Celebrities have The Archers in their sights

ARE One Direction poised to join *The Archers*? Is Harry Styles set to help Jolene make a country comeback album during his year off from the stage?

These are the questions vexing showbiz pundits following a mention by the radio soap's editor that "major international stars" are among the most avid fans of the show, and they want to be in it.

Other questions currently perplexing the celebrity followers are: "Or is it The Foo Fighters?" and "what about Mumford & Sons?" and "maybe it's Muse?", as *The Archers* chief, Sean O'Connor isn't yet letting on.

"All I can say is my jaw dropped, I

had no idea they had even heard of us," said O'Connor, who last week suffered a bit of a drubbing when *The Archers* celebrated its 65th anniversary with a "surprise" storyline about milk yields which was more of a massive shock to fans who had been teased to tune in with the expectation that Ruthless Rob, the show's Dirty Den, would at least be crucified on Lakey Hill.

But as many rather cross listeners complained that the anniversary episode – touted by the BBC as being "completely different from any show's anniversary episode ever" – was a let down, now a new guessing game has begun as everyone wonders whether it's the Kardashians who are to check

into Grey Gables.

It could happen... who would have said, before it happened, that Princess Margaret or the Duchess of Cornwall would have joined the soap opera?

Who among us devotees who are still waiting for Liz Hurley to be obviously cast as Ambridge cougar Sabrina Thwaite would have expected Britt Eklund, Dame Edna Everage, John Peel, Terry Wogan, The Pet Shop Boys and the Duke of Westminster all to have taken cameos in the past?

Who, after silent character Pru Forrest said absolutely nothing for the best part of 50 years, would have seen it coming that she had been Dame Judi Dench all along, allowed to talk just the

once to mark the show's 10,000th episode?

Anyway, where once a gold disc on the wall or a BAFTA in the loo was considered to be the prize which said you had made it, now it's a part in *The Archers* – and among those whom the BBC will name as massive fans of the show are Prince Charles, Stephen Fry, Sir John Major, Ewan MacGregor and Sir Ian McKellen, all of whom are apparently keen to be signed to have a mug of cider in Joe Grundy's shed.

As we also hear that the husky-voiced newsreader Fiona Bruce is a huge fan too, bets are now being taken that *Antiques Roadshow* may shortly arrive in Ambridge.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

IT'S a bumper year for broadcasters, with the reliable old peg of anniversaries providing much opportunity for TV dramas and documentaries – so expect everything from films marking the origins of Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail to a look back to when The Beatles first started shouting that “pot is god!”

Although TV producers have been planning ways of marking the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, the 300th of the birth of Capability Brown, the 350th of the Great Fire Of London, the 200th of the birth of Charlotte Bronte and yet another remake of Jane Eyre, the 150th of the birth of Beatrix Potter, the 100th of the birth of Roald Dahl and the 40th anniversary of Concorde, the key datemark of the year will of course fall on July 30th – which is best summed up in the popular adage, “England 4 Germany 2”.

But the 1966 World Cup final, which was watched on TV by a record-setting 32 million Brits, is just one of a series of great events of that year which will be re-examined by the UK's greatest documentary film-maker, the BBC *Arena*'s Anthony Wall.

Wall is currently preparing *Sixty Six & All That*, which is the working title of an *Arena* special on the year that changed Britain, and especially London, forever.

It was the year when Ronnie Kray fatally shot George Cornell in the Blind Beggar pub in Whitechapel, when Labour won the general election and upped its majority from one to 96 seats, when the Marquess of Bath opened the Longleat safari park, when spy George Blake escaped from Wormwood Scrubs and bunked off to Moscow, when *Till Death Us Do Part* first introduced us to Alf Garnett, when *Cathy Come Home*'s study of homelessness shocked the nation, when the Aberfan disaster made the nation cry, when Centre Point opened in order to stay empty for a decade, when the Government announced the doom of the thrupenny bit with the coming of decimalisation, when Hovercraft began crossing the Channel, when Barclays introduced the UK's first credit card and when

It's 1966



■ UP FOR THE CUP: The legends of 66 enjoy their World Cup victory.

...and we're all high on football and pot

Time magazine first created for its cover story the catch-all term, “Swinging London”.

Although 1967 and its *Summer of Love* has been much lauded by history, 1966 was the year when it really all began and Wall's film is expected to take us back to the time when the Earth's two poles were Carnaby Street and King's Road, when *Ready Steady Go*'s Cathy McGowan was the grooviest “bird” in London, and when Twiggy, Jean Shrimpton, Veruschka and other models like Penelope Tree and Peggy Moffitt were modelling the new Mary Quant miniskirt that Coco Chanel had called “disgusting”.

But it was also the time when The

packing up playing live.

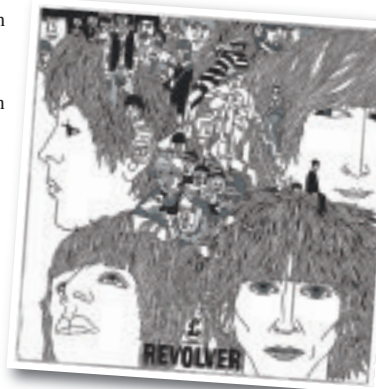
But via *Revolver* 1966 also began 50 years of getting stoned as The Beatles popularised cannabis and LSD through obvious references on the album's songs, like *Tomorrow Never Knows*, *She Said She Said*, *Doctor Robert*, *I'm Only Sleeping* and, unnoticed by BBC playlists at the time, *Got To Get You Into My Life*.

“*Got To Get You Into My Life* was one I wrote when I had first been introduced to pot, I'd been a rather straight working-class lad but when we started to get into pot it seemed to me to be quite uplifting,” Sir Paul, who no longer smokes cannabis or anything else, told his biographer Barry Miles.

“So it's not a song to a person, it's actually an ode to pot, like someone else might write an ode to a good claret.”

Anthony Wall's 1966 film is also expected to examine the later part of the year, when headlines predicated on the band not appearing to be doing much were announcing “The Beatles are finished” and The Beatles, Sir Paul recalled, were quietly holed up inside Abbey Road studios making another album and saying, “Finished? You wait till you hear this.”

That album of course was *Sgt Pepper* and next year we can expect a bonanza of documentaries, re-releases, unheard demos, books and quite probably Henry The Horse dancing the waltz on *Strictly*, all under the inevitable title *It Was 50 Years Ago Today*.



The hacks are back

PRESS to play. After years of avoiding making dramas about journalists, the BBC is to bring back the hack with a new six-hour series about life in the newsroom [Still life more like – Ed.]

Long after the demise of Lou Grant and the old LWT sit-com *Hot Metal*, BBC drama chief Polly Hill has revealed she has commissioned *Press*, an “original and ambitious drama set in the world of newspapers – its past riven by hacking scandals, its present at the mercy of the digital age and the 24-hour news cycle, its future uncertain” [No BBC bite back planned there then – Ed.]

Press is written by Mike Bartlett, creator of the controversial *South* hit *King Charles III*. Bartlett says: “From exposing political corruption to splashing on celebrity scandal, journalists have enormous influence over us, yet recent events have shown there's high-stakes and life-changing drama going on in the news organisations. This is a behind-the-scenes story about a group of diverse and troubled people who shape the headlines.”

Fashion victims

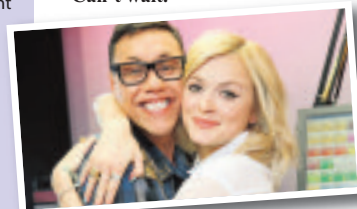
GRON, more exposure for celebrity “experts”. ITV is to bring us *Fearne & Gok*; *Off The Rails*, a new fashion series that sounds like the TV version of *Hello* magazine.

“Best friends Fearne Cotton and Gok Wan delve into the world of celebrity style. Joining them in the studio each week, two celebrity panelists will be giving their opinion on who rocked the red carpet; who played it safe and who pushed the boundaries when it comes to the celebrity style stakes,” says ITV.

“The series will also reveal the style secrets of our hosts and celebrity guests as they give a personal insight into dressing for those big events.”

“Walk-in-wardrobes, high street heroes and last-minute fittings for the ultimate designer dress – not to mention the hair, make-up, shoes and accessories that need to be considered during awards season.”

Can't wait.



■ STYLE... ISH: Gok and Fearne.

Simply Red play for Chelsea Pensioners



■ RED AND BLUE: Mick Hucknall will lead Simply Red in Live at Chelsea.

SIMPLY Red have been announced as the first act to perform for Live At Chelsea, the concert series which returns to The Royal Hospital this summer.

Mick Hucknall will be joined by his long serving band mates Ian Kirkham (sax), Steve Lewinson (bass), Kenji Suzuki (guitar), Kevin Robinson (trumpet and flute) and Dave Clayton (keyboards) plus new drummer Roman Roth, at the gig on June 19th.

“I'm thrilled that we've got the chance to play in such beautiful surroundings, but the real privilege for us is in supporting the veterans of this country, who have given so much,” said Hucknall.

At its debut last year, Rufus Wainwright, Damien Rice and Alison Moyet performed at the three-day Live At Chelsea concerts. A percentage of the ticket sales goes towards supporting the Chelsea Pensioners. Tickets, priced from £40, can be bought at www.liveatchelsea.com

Simply Red have sold more than 50 million albums since the mid 1980s. By the time the band was disbanded in 2010, Hucknall was the only original member left. At the 1992 and 1993 Brit Awards, they received the award for Best British Group. The band's origins are said to date from a 1976 Sex Pistols gig at the Lesser Free Trade Hall in Manchester.

Talk of the town

THE *America's Got Talent* 2015 winner, British ventriloquist and comedian Paul Zerdin, returns to the UK with a major tour for 2016, which will include three nights in London.

The tour, which is called *Spongefinger*, kicks off in April in Leeds. It will see Zerdin's act grace venues across the UK and Ireland, alongside a three-night stint at the Udderbelly in London from April 14 to 16.

Zerdin is arguably the UK's number one ventriloquist and made his TV debut in 1996 as the first outright winner – by over 100,000 votes – of LWT's *The Big Talent Show*, hosted by Jonathan Ross. Since then he has appeared on countless TV shows, including Comedy Central's *The World Stands Up*, ITV1's *Comedy Rocks* with Jason Manford, *Tonight at the London Palladium*, *The Prince's Trust Gala* – and has made three appearances at *The Royal Variety Performance*.

Winning series 10 of *America's Got Talent* in September of this year, Zerdin and his sidekicks soon went viral on YouTube, receiving millions of views from around the world. Since his win, Zerdin has completed a headline show at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas and is also in talks with various US TV networks.

Stardom hasn't left London's talented showman speechless

When asked about his thoughts on the forthcoming tour, Zerdin stated: "I was born in London and still live and work here, so despite the great international reception I've received since winning *America's Got Talent*, it's fantastic to be able to tour and entertain audiences across my homeland! I'm looking forward to introducing Sam, Albert and Baby to audiences across the UK – although Sam is definitely getting too big for his boots, having demanded his own dressing room!"

Aided and abetted by his loveable sidekicks the precocious Baby, cantankerous OAP Albert and cheeky pre-teen Sam, the show promises side-splitting skits, charm and above all, impeccable talent.

For a full list of tour dates see Zerdin's website paulzerdin.com



■ TALK OF THE TOWN: Paul Zerdin is heading for London in April.

Dickinson leads Lucy tribute act

SANDRA Dickinson will star in the UK premiere of *I Loved Lucy*, a play based on the best selling memoirs of Lee Tannen.

The production reveals the real-life person behind the iconic star Lucille Ball, whose comedic excellence inspired a generation.

The play runs for just four weeks at the Jermyn Street Theatre, but promises to be a rich personal portrait of an actress who remains one of Hollywood's best-loved stars.

With her trademark red hair and goofy persona, Ball will always be remembered as the crazy, accident-prone, lovable Lucy Ricardo on her groundbreaking 1950s TV sitcom, *I Love Lucy*, which co-starred her real-life husband Desi Arnaz and was produced by their own TV company, Desilu Productions.

Shown around the world and topping the ratings every year in the US, it is still regarded today as one of the greatest and most influential sitcoms in TV history. When the show ended, Lucy took sole control of Desilu Productions, making her the first woman to run a major TV production studio. She won four Emmys and was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in



■ STAR: Sandra Dickinson.

recognition of her life's work.

Tannen first met Ball as a child but cemented their close and enduring friendship as an adult. During the last 10 years of Ball's life – years mostly spent out of the spotlight and much of it around a backgammon table, where Lee became her confidant, spending time in her Beverly Hills and Palm Springs homes, travelling with her and entertaining her on his home turf in New York City. His memoir became an instant best seller. In 2010, he adapted it for the stage where it premiered at The Laguna Playhouse.

I Loved Lucy star Dickinson has enjoyed a prolific career on stage and screen, notably as Trillian in the cult sci-fi TV series *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*. She is currently the voice of Grandma Tracy in CITV's *Thunderbirds Are Go*.

I Loved Lucy will run at the Jermyn Street Theatre from February 2 to 27. For more information visit the website jermynstreettheatre.co.uk

Famous five set for Albert Hall

MUSICAL theatre vocal group Collabro are to visit The Royal Albert Hall as part of a new tour this year.

The winners of last year's *Britain's Got Talent* have continued to grow in popularity and played to over 55,000 people during their sell-out UK tour earlier this year.

The five-piece swept to victory on ITV's popular talent show in June 2014, winning a £250,000 cash prize as well as a much-coveted slot on *The Royal Variety Show*.

They signed with Simon Cowell's Syco Music and released their debut album *Stars*, which smashed in to the number one spot, beating Ed Sheeran in the process.

Collabro are Michael Auger, Richard Hadfield, Jamie Lambert, Matt Pagan

and Thomas Redgrave. They first got together in the upstairs of a north London pub.

The group more recently appeared on stage at the Lyric Theatre alongside *X-Factor* winner Sam Bailey when she invited them to join her for a one-off concert of musical theatre classics.

Last April Collabro revealed they had signed a record deal with Sony Masterworks in the US for £1 million. Soon after, they announced that their second album would be called *Act Two*.

It was released in June and debuted at number two in the UK albums chart.

Collabro will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall on the March 26. For more details visit their website collabroglobal.com



■ ALBERT HALL DATE: Collabro.



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Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

THE main cast of the new *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* stage play has been announced.

Jamie Parker, Noma Dumezweni and Paul Thornley will take the lead roles as Harry, Hermione and Ron in the play, by Jack Thorne, which is based on an original new story by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany.

Rowling said: "I'm so excited with the choice of casting for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. I can't wait to see Jamie, Noma and Paul bring the adult Harry, Hermione and Ron to life on stage next summer."

The play will receive its world premiere in London's West End at the Palace Theatre this summer. It is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and the first official Harry Potter story to be presented on stage. Further casting for the company of more than 30 will be announced at a later date.

It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn't much easier now that he is an over-worked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband and father of three school-age children.

While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places.

Parker, who is to play Harry, is currently playing Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* at the Savoy Theatre, a role he previously performed at Chichester Festival Theatre.

He will be joined by Dumezweni, who is currently playing the title role in *Linda* at the Royal Court Theatre. Dumezweni has received outstanding reviews, having



■ **EXCITEMENT IS GROWING:** The countdown to July 30 is on as fans wait for the first performances of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

Harry is back ... and it's not adults only

stepped in to take over the role in *Linda* after *Sex in the City* star Kim Cattrall was forced to pull out owing to illness.

Thornley completes the trio and plays the lovable Ron Weasley, having previously starred as Dodge in *London Road* at the National Theatre before going on to play the same character in the film version, both directed by Rufus Norris.

Harry Potter and the Cursed

Child is one play presented in two parts. Both parts are intended to be seen in order on the same day (matinee and evening), or on two consecutive evenings. Previews begin on June 7, with the opening performances of Part One and Part Two on Saturday, July 30. *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is currently booking to May 27, 2017.

For more details visit the website harrypottertheplay.com



■ **AND THEN THERE WERE THREE:** The cast of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* will feature, from left to right, Jamie Parker as Harry, Noma Dumezweni as Hermione and Paul Thornley and Ron Weasley, in the play, by Jack Thorne, which is based on an original new story by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany. It will be staged at London's Palace Theatre.



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Talk of the town

Going for a song: compelling tale of two women in spiral of decline

Grey Gardens *****

ONE of the most hotly anticipated shows of 2016 opened last week at the Southwark Playhouse, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Grey Gardens, starring the multi award-winning duo of Jenna Russell and Sheila Hancock, is based on the infamous 1975 documentary of the same name which became a cult classic with its portrayal of the dysfunctional former socially polished relatives of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. This is the European premiere of the musical that was nominated for 10 Tony awards, winning three of them, when it ran on Broadway in 2007.

The show takes a mixture of fact and fantasy to enrich an already fascinating tale of two

women who eventually find themselves living in isolated squalor in a dilapidated mansion in the East Hamptons, New York.

I was lucky enough to speak to one of the show's stars, Olivier award winner Russell about playing both of the complicated women in this intriguing story of female companionship.

Russell told me: "The idea of the musical came from the writers watching the documentary and thinking that it was perfect to put into song because music was so important in those women's lives. If you ever watch the entire documentary they're endlessly singing and doing little routines to the cameras."

Russell once again proves why she commands such respect

on the London stage, with a phenomenally potent portrayal, including both comedic genius and touching realism. Her act two opener fully showcases her illustrious vocals and the depth of characterisation.

Edith Bouvier Beale (or Big Edie) was the aunt of Jacqueline Bouvier and had fancied herself as a singer before she became the trophy wife of Phelan Beale in 1917.

In act one we join Big Edie as she prepares for her daughter's engagement party. The flighty matriarch ruins her daughter's chances with her over-zealous exuberance and sets a pattern of blame and guilt which becomes more apparent as their lives begin to progress.

In act two we join the women in the 1970s when the show depicts the events of the documentary. For fans of the original film, every inch of pastiche is extracted to recreate the atmosphere with original quotes to maintain authenticity and the fabulous intonation of Little Edie wonderfully regaled.

Russell explained: "They've reimaged in act one what their lives were like prior to losing all their money and living as we find them in the documentary, which is our act two."

"They were amazing women, American aristocracy who through a series of events kind



■ **MASTERCLASS:** Sheila Hancock is imperious in *Grey Gardens*.

Photos by Scott Rylander

of lost their money but kept their house – and it's just a study of a mother and daughter relationship, sort of pushed to the extreme, I guess."

Hancock plays the aged Big Edie, housebound and gradually wilting away. The hilarious portrayal is a masterclass in stagecraft that beautifully captures the essence of the effervescent amateur songstress who lived together with her daughter in poverty for more than 25 years.

"You had two extremely well educated women who at that time did what they were supposed to do – or the mother did. She married a very rich man."

"She was unfulfilled so she stayed in her house in the Hamptons because it was the only place she felt she could sing happily. It was her house. It was her place of safety but of course it was a mansion."

The pair are admirably supported by a wonderful ensemble cast, including the rising star Aaron Sidwell, who manages to seamlessly flip from starched soldier to fluff headed, hearty teen.

The intimacy of the Southwark Playhouse works well to invite you into this once grand household.

This is a captivating and wonderfully acted piece of theatre which is not to be missed. The run is virtually sold out but I suggest you try to grab the last remaining tickets while you can.

For more details visit the show's dedicated website greygardens.tarento.net



■ **MUST-SEE:** Jenna Russell and Sheila Hancock.

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

IF YOU are looking for something a cut above your usual run of the mill Italian restaurant, **Sapori Sardi** on the Fulham Road is the perfect place for a sumptuous and delicious supper, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The restaurant, which is run by husband and wife team Piero and Gui, offers the very best authentic Sardinian cuisine in the most relaxing and warming atmosphere.

The extensive menu includes many classic dishes synonymous with the Mediterranean island haven but also endeavors to offer the finest in Italian comestibles and wines.

This was my first experience of Sardinian cooking and as such I was unsure exactly what I should order. I've found of late a really good way to gauge the very best an eatery has to offer is to ask the staff what they would choose to order. This means you often get a completely different meal experience as you are taken out of the routine of familiarity, and are instead fully plunged into an authentic, rustic eating experience.

The wonderful staff at Sapori Sardi were more than happy to offer me their advice and so for my starter I sampled a Ricotta Mustia Alla Griglia, which is grilled smoked Sardinian ricotta sheep milk served on a bed of mixed leaves salad and walnut halves – drizzled with honey. At a cost of £8.95 the dish perfectly mixes the smoky taste of the cheese with the sweetness of honey. The crisp salad and walnuts add an extra coolness and crunch to the plate.

I decided to go for some of the excellent seafood for my main course and again my waiter advised which dish he would choose. We went for Merluzzo al forno alla puttanesca, servito con capponata (£17.95), which is baked cod, fillet with fresh tomatoes, red onions, capers, olives and mixed herbs, served with Sicilian capponata. I always enjoy the fish and caper combination, with the salty flesh of the pickled flower bud beautifully complementing the meaty thews of



■ **EASY DOES IT:** Sapori Sardi is owned and run by husband and wife team, Piero and Gui. Inset right: a Long Bramble cocktail from the Slug and Lettuce in Leicester Square.

the pesci, resting on the capponata, which is a collection of stewed mixed peppers, and which gives a warming accompaniment.

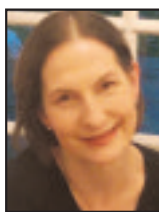
The piece de resistance, however, was the dessert, which I was encouraged to try; a fully authentic homemade Sardinian delicacy with an elegant citrus twist to give a fresh flavour to the deep-filled pastry treat. The seadas is brimming with soft cheese and orange zest, topped with honey and walnut. This traditional dessert is also known as sebadas and made in different parts of Sardinia and cost just £6.50.

With a glass of exquisite red wine, Silenzi Rosso IGT Isola dei Nuraghi 2013 (£6) and an espresso (£2.20) my bill came to a very modest £41.60.

With relaxing European folk music and an opulent ambience, Sapori Sardi is the ideal setting for a romantic liaison or a full family party.



Belinda Donovan is an experienced chef who was trained at the prestigious La Varenne cooking school in France. She compiled the **Hammersmith and Fulham Cook Book** in 2013 and is a regular writer of cookery columns and reviews. An enthusiast for all things Fulham, she has also written articles about the area's rich local history. She is currently a Conservative councillor for the Addison ward and served as Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham for the year 2012-13



Fulham vines!

IHAVE lived in Fulham for 20 years but only last year discovered the reason my garden is a goldmine for growing vine leaves. My street, off Fulham Palace Road in the 'Alphabet Streets', was part of the Bishops Palace grounds, and that could explain why the earth is so fertile. I have planted a plum tree in my garden as well as a fig but my prize plant is a vine, which even produces the most stunning miniature red grapes every year.

When my Fulham vine leaves

are plentiful, I use this recipe by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall from his Veg Cook Book.

You can substitute large Savoy cabbage leaves when the leaves die down for the winter.

When I am not using my vine leaves for this recipe I use them to decorate platters of canapés or starters for a dinner party.

Serves 4

Ingredients

12 large vine leaves, blanched in boiling water for 1 minute and refreshed in cold water.
4 tablespoons of soured cream

For the tomato sauce
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 bay leaf
2 sprigs of thyme
1 carrot chopped
1 celery stalk chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
400 g tin of plum tomatoes
A pinch of sugar
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Filling

1 tablespoon of olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 to 2 garlic cloves finely chopped
50 g walnuts finely chopped
Bunch of parsley, chopped
Handful of dill, chopped
1/4 tspn dried chilli flakes
1 large egg lightly beaten

Method

Make the tomato sauce. Heat the olive oil in a small saucepan over a medium-low heat and sweat the onion, bay leaf and thyme for

THE **Slug and Lettuce** in Leicester Square has received a dazzling makeover and reopened earlier this month, creating 10 new jobs.

The bar, which is right next door to Chinatown, is well known for its cocktails and offers value for money, quality food in a lively and friendly atmosphere. I was invited along to soak up the ambience and sample some of the cuisine, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

My friend and I stopped by for a pre-theatre supper and the vibrant downstairs bar was already buzzing with people enjoying a post-work beverage and a light bite.

The decor is relaxing and contemporary, with mood lighting and plush furnishings, which add to the opulent feel of the lounge.

The menu is fairly standard pub fare and I chose to indulge in a very generous plate full of hand-battered cod fillet served with chips, minted mushy peas and tartare sauce (£10.45). With light, fluffy fish and crisp batter, it was a veritable feast. My friend enjoyed Heron Bay whole tail scampi (£9.75), which was beautifully prepared and served with chips and a salad garnish.

We washed our ample platters down with a bottle of Shiraz, Shingleback Red Knot McLaren Vale Australia (£21.50), which had a perfect warm and fruity flourish.

We finished off by sharing an Amaretti and Irish cream cheesecake (a luxurious treat at £4.95) and a cookie cup explosion (£4.95) which has a gratifying cookie biscuit base, filled with sticky chocolate brownie marshmallow pieces and chocolate honeycomb, served with vanilla ice cream.

With such a fantastic location in the heart of the West End, the Slug and Lettuce Leicester Square is a perfect place to stop off for a bite to eat. Our meal cost a very reasonable £51.60 and with the bar also offering cocktail masterclasses, I'm sure it will only increase in its popularity.

about ten minutes until the onion is soft. Add the carrot and celery and sauté for five minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook for a minute. Add the tomatoes, salt and pepper and a pinch of sugar. Simmer gently for about 15 minutes.

Make the filling. Heat the olive oil in a small pan, sweat the onion in it until soft but not coloured. Add garlic and stir for a minute. Tip into a bowl add the walnuts, chopped herbs and chilli flakes. Season generously with salt and pepper, add the egg and stir to combine.

Pre-heat the oven to 180 then place a large spoonful on each vine leaf and fold up, tucking the ends under. Place in an ovenproof dish seam side down.

Spoon the tomato sauce over the stuffed leaves and dot soured cream over the top and sprinkle with pepper.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK



Scotch broth

Serves four to six

MUTTON is without doubt the best meat to use for a soupy broth like this. You will probably need to ask your butcher to order it in advance, although butchers are coming round to the fact that mutton is back in vogue and they are making more of an effort to stock it generally. About time too.

A broth like this is also perfect to take in a vacuum flask on a day's fishing or shooting – or on a long country walk.

Ingredients

250-300g neck fillet, or boned shoulder of mutton lamb, cut into rough 1cm dice
1/2 tsp chopped thyme leaves
30g pearl barley, soaked in cold water for an hour then drained
50g dried split peas, soaked in cold water overnight, drained and rinsed
2ltrs lamb or chicken stock, or a couple of good-quality stock cubes dissolved in that amount of hot water
alt and freshly ground black pepper
1 small leek, well rinsed, trimmed and cut into rough 1cm dice
2 carrots, peeled if necessary and cut into rough 1cm dice
1 celery stalk, peeled if necessary and cut into rough 1cm dice
1 small swede (turnip), peeled and cut into rough 1cm dice
A few leaves of green cabbage, stalks removed and cut into rough 1cm dice
1tbsp chopped parsley

Method

Put the lamb, thyme, barley and split peas into a large pan and cover with the stock. Season with a little salt and freshly ground black pepper, bring to the boil and simmer for one hour.

Add the vegetables, except for the cabbage, and simmer for another 30 minutes. Next add the cabbage and parsley and simmer for a further 10 minutes. Season again with salt and pepper, if necessary, and serve.



■ **MMM... FOR MUTTON:** Mutton is best for a soupy broth like this, says Mark Hix.



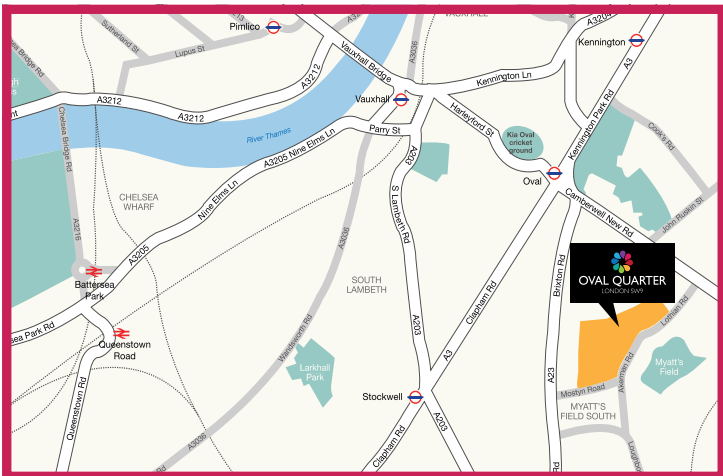
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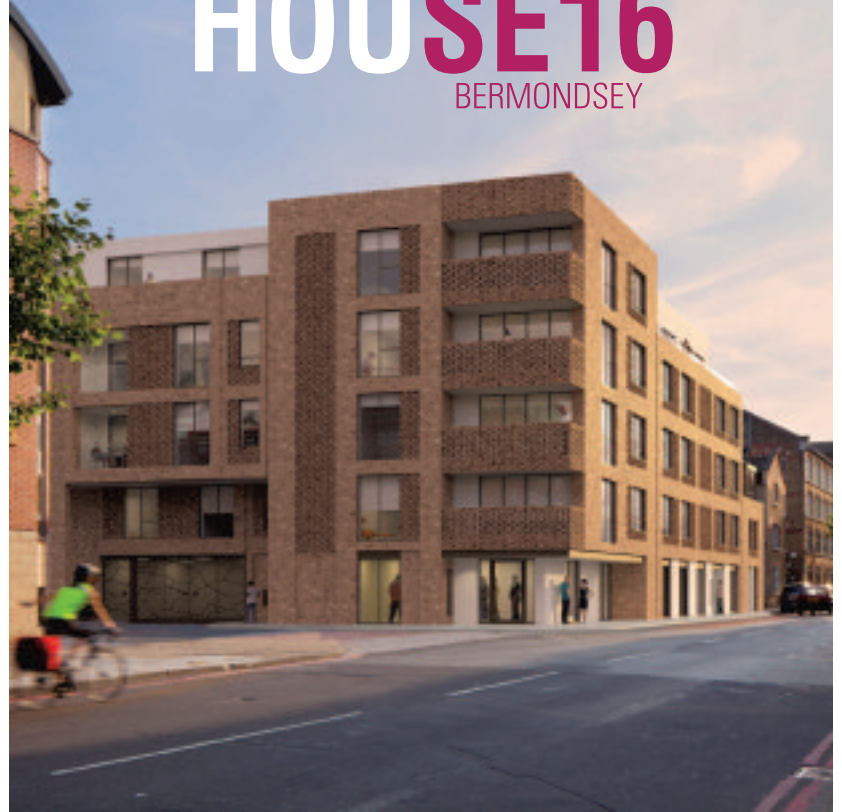
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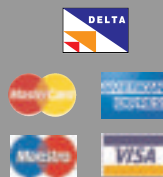
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Minor material amendment to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/02301/FUL granted 14th July 2015 to include reducing the height of the flank wall, alterations to the roof of first floor rear back addition to form a gable ended roof.

77 Kenyon Street London SW6 6LA 2015/06102/FUL
Retention of French doors at first floor level, retention of roof terraces at first and second floor level to the rear elevation.
43 Mall Road London W6 9DG 2015/06089/FUL
Erection of rear extensions at lower ground floor to upper ground floor level; erection of new external steps from lower ground floor to garden level at the rear of the property; formation of a roof terrace at upper ground floor level; replacement of existing railings with new metal balustrades to external staircase from upper ground floor to garden level at the rear of the property; replacement of existing French doors with new doors at upper ground floor level at the rear elevation; replacement of existing window with a side elevation at lower ground floor level; replacement of existing windows with new windows to all elevations of the property.
Ground Floor 9 Wendell Road London W12 9RS 2015/05714/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension; installation of a window to the side elevation at ground floor level; and replacement of a window with doors to the side elevation at ground floor level.

18 Cromwell Grove London W6 7RG 2015/06071/FUL
Erection of a two storey rear extension at lower ground and ground floor levels following exaction of rear garden in connection with enlargement of the lower ground floor level incorporating courtyard garden; erection of a front boundary wall; installation of window in the side elevation at second floor level.
Flat D Second Floor 13 Batoum Gardens London W6 7QB 2015/06073/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of glass balustrade around the proposed rear roof extension in connection with its use as a balcony; installation of three rooflights in the front roof slope.
Flat A First Floor 7 Greswell Street London SW6 6PR 2015/06086/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of three rooflights in the front roof slope.

125 Sulgrave Road London W6 7QH 2015/05797/VAR
Variation of Condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning permission reference: 2015/03284/FUL granted 21st September 2015 for the "Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roof slope; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; erection of a two storey rear extension at first and second floor level; bricking up of 1no window to the side of rear back additions at first and second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing door at the side of single storey back addition; excavation of the front, rear and side gardens to form front and side lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; conversion of the existing single family dwellinghouse into 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats." Amendments to approved drawings to include the addition of a rear lightwell through the excavation of part of the rear garden.
Klaudine House 33 Standish Road London W6 9AL 2015/06059/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level for use as additional Class (B1) Office space; erection of an external staircase from second floor level to third floor level.
59 Pennard Road London W12 8DW 2015/06103/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roof slope; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; provision of refuse storage at the front of the property, cycle storage at the front and rear of the property; conversion of the existing dwellinghouse into 2 x one bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

12 Shepherd's Bush Place London W12 8LJ 2015/06100/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 1no rooflight in the rear roof slope; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level following the demolition of existing single storey back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; formation of a roof terrace and replacement of existing non-original window with a new window to match the existing at first floor level to the rear elevation; excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basement; replacement of 3no windows with new double glazed windows and installation of a new 6 panelled door with a glass top light to replace the existing door to the front elevation; associated internal and external alterations.
Footpath On Western Side Of Paddenswick Road London W6 0BU 2015/06099/TEL56
Erection of 12.5 metre dual user replica telegraph monopole and installation of 1no. equipment cabinet with associated external works.
6 Wallflower Street London W12 0TE 2015/05896/FUL
Erection of a dormer window on the existing front roof slope; erection of a two storey rear extension at ground and first floor levels.
601 King's Road London SW6 2EL 2015/05973/FUL
Erection of a single storey storage room following the removal of existing canopy to the side of the main building.
324 And 324A Goldhawk Road London W6 0XF 2015/06050/FUL
Raising the ridge height of the main roof by 500mm at no. 324 and 324A Goldhawk Road.
1 - 4 St Josephs House 42 Brook Green London W6 7BN 2015/05711/FUL
Demolition and erection of replacement two storey rear extensions at ground and first floor level; demolition of single storey outbuildings; installation of new windows to replace the existing at ground and first floor level to the rear elevation; erection of new external steps with railings and handrails at the rear of the property; internal alterations and reconfigurations in connection with the conversion of the ground and first floor level into 5 self-contained C2 units and retention of 3 non-self contained C2 units.
Ibis Hotel 47 Lillie Road London SW6 1UD 2015/05900/TEL56
Installation of two Intracom Street Node HW antennas at roof level.
FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
12 Shepherd's Bush Place London W12 8LX 2015/06101/LBC
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 1no rooflight in the rear roof slope; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level following the demolition of existing single storey back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; formation of a roof terrace and replacement of existing non-original window with a new window to match the existing at first floor level to the rear elevation; excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the creation of a new basement; replacement of 3no windows with new double glazed windows and installation of a new 6 panelled door with a glass top light to replace the existing door to the front elevation; internal alterations to include formation of a new shower room, relocation of 1no door, replacement of existing pocket slider with a new panelled door to bedroom 2 at first floor level, widening of existing kitchen external wall, partial removal of internal wall in between living and dining room, formation of a new bathroom, removal of internal wall and relocation of existing door of the dining room at ground floor level; associated internal and external alterations.

1 - 4 St Josephs House 42 Brook Green London W6 7BN 2015/05712/LBC
Demolition and erection of replacement two storey rear extensions at ground and first floor level; demolition of single storey outbuildings; installation of new windows to replace the existing at ground and first floor level to the rear elevation; erection of new external steps with railings and handrails at the rear of the property; internal alterations and reconfigurations in connection with the conversion of the ground and first floor level into 5 self-contained C2 units and retention of 3 non-self contained C2 units.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
Footpath On Western Side Of Paddenswick Road London W6 0BU 2015/06099/TEL56
Erection of 12.5 metre dual user replica telegraph monopole and installation of 1no. equipment cabinet with associated external works.

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The proposal constitutes a major development.
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Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
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Hammersmith & Fulham Council



1 - 4 St Josephs House 42 Brook Green London W6 7BN 2015/05711/FUL
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THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
Horatio House And Ophelia House 77 Fulham Palace Road London W6 8JA 2015/05975/VAR
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The proposal constitutes a major development.
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Public Notices

e-mail: classified@slp.co.uk
www.southlondon-today.co.uk

Tel: 020 8768 4939

**RONALD ARMIST
(Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat B, 92 Onslow Gardens, London SW7 3BS, who died on 1/4/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 22/3/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Macfarlanes LLP, 20 Cursitor Street,
London EC4A 3LT, (Ref: MCKL/648116)

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Deadline is Friday at 3pm

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (UXBRIDGE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Uxbridge Road between its junctions with Shepherd's Bush Green and Loftus Road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs or suspension signs are displayed, the one way traffic flow systems in Macfarlane Road and Hopgood Street would be suspended to allow two way traffic flow.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the 8th February 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Monday 8th February 2016 and last for 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 6th day of January 2016.

Chris Bainbridge

Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1) (GOLDHAWK ROAD IV)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operation works in the Goldhawk Road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the eastbound carriageway of Goldhawk Road between its junctions with Greenside Road and Wingate Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Paddenswick Road, Glenthorne Road, Beadon Road and Shepherds Bush Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Saturday, 16th January 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Saturday, 16th January 2016 and last for 2 days with back up dates scheduled for 23rd & 24th January 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 6th day of January 2016

Chris Bainbridge

Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(GORLESTON STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate construction works to be carried out in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Gorleston Street.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
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Dated this 6th day of January 2016

Chris Bainbridge

Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Home truths follow another cup exit

THE old joke about the tea bag staying in the cup longer than Queens Park Rangers resurfaced yet again on Saturday, as it tends to do at this time of the year, when R's FA Cup hopes dissolved at the first hurdle for the third time in as many years.

In a third round tie of few clear-cut chances, hosts Nottingham Forest won it thanks to Jamie Ward's first half goal at The City Ground - a result that extended QPR's winless run to seven in all competitions.

Not that anyone with Hoops in their blood was expecting a much better outcome. As soon as the draw was made they feared the worst.

After all, R's have not won at Forest in 31 visits. Yes, you did read it correctly... **THIRTY-ONE VISITS!**

And despite constantly changing managers, their record in the domestic game's premier cup competition remains as woeful as ever.

Consider the damning facts: QPR have reached the fourth round only three times in the last 15 years.

Astonishingly, they have fallen at the first hurdle 11 times in the last 19 seasons **WITHOUT SCORING.**

The 1982 beaten

finalists have not progressed as far as the fifth round since 1997.

QPR boss Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink bemoaned his side's poor first half display at Forest.

He said: "The first half wasn't us. That's where we lost the game. We just didn't play and that's very disappointing. We were too open. We didn't play with courage. It was far from good enough."

"The second half was better and what I expect from us. It was like night and day from the first half."

Unlucky

"We kept going and probably were a little unlucky not to get a draw."

"We just need to put 90-96 minute performances together. If we do that, I feel we will get wins."

The QPR boss admitted there were a few home truths told in the dressing room at full-time, adding:

"We've had a long chat in the dressing room after the game. A few harsh words from us all. Sometimes that is good."

"We need to believe in ourselves more. We can't and mustn't feel sorry for ourselves."

"We have to stay together and work together - be a team. And that's what I saw in the second half."

Hasselbaink reserved praise for debutant Joe Lumley in the QPR goal, commenting: "We all know (Robert) Green was ill and (Alex) Smithies is injured with his elbow and Joe had to come in at late notice."

"I was proud of his work today. He looked very composed and good when he was called into action, which was few and far between in a game where neither keeper was really tested too often."

Ahead of Tuesday's visit to Blackburn Rovers and Saturday's trip to Rotherham United, who are both below Rangers in the Championship table, Hasselbaink added:

"I don't believe in luck. It is what it is. We have to keep going. Keep knocking on the door and our luck will turn."

"We have to forget this and move forward."

"The supporters deserve more and we intend to keep going and give them something to smile about."

"I don't feel we are far away. I believe the results will come."



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

■ FORMER QPR head coach Chris Ramsey has been appointed as the club's technical director.

Ramsey, 53, took charge of Rangers last February but was sacked in November.

He will be responsible for a variety of roles relating to coaching and player development at the west London club.

Services

"Whilst we were disappointed things didn't work out with Chris at first-team level, we were determined to retain his services," director of football Les Ferdinand said.

"As such, we actually put a clause in his contract which allowed us to retain Chris' services in a player-development role should things not work out for him as head coach."

Ramsey took charge at Loftus Road after Harry Redknapp resigned as manager but he could not save Rangers from relegation from the Premier League.

He signed a three-year contract last summer but was dismissed on

November 4 with QPR 13th in the Championship table, a move Ferdinand said was "in the best interests of the club".

Neil Warnock spent a month in interim charge before R's appointed Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink as manager.

Ramsey was a coach in QPR's academy before taking on his role with the first-team squad and will oversee coaching within the academy as part of his new role.

"Chris knows academy football inside-out and put the building blocks in place before taking on his role with the first-team squad and will oversee coaching within the academy as part of his new role."

"He can come in and make an instant impact in an environment he has helped build."

■ AS a result of their FA Cup defeat at Nottingham Forest, QPR's return visit in the league has been brought forward four days - from Saturday, January 30 to Tuesday, January 26 (7.45pm).



■ KURT Zouma has grabbed his first team chance Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Zouma sets young Blues example

■ ONE Chelsea youngster who has established himself as a regular first team fixture in central defence is Frenchman Kurt Zouma.

The likeable 21-year-old, a £21m signing from St Etienne in January 2014 and determined to win the FA Cup, is an example to the likes of Loftus-Cheek and trains as hard as he plays.

Zouma said of goal-scoring Loftus-Cheek: "I was very happy for him. He works very hard every day at training. But when you are young and have a chance, you have to give everything to it."

Keep going

"He took his chance and scored. He has to keep going now. He has the quality to become a regular in this team."

"I'm a young player. I won't say that I am an example but, yeah, I like to do my best. I'm just 21, I have to improve every day too."

"Ruben is very hard to stop. He is quick and strong and has good technique with the ball."

Of the training ground spat between Costa and Oscar, Zouma, like Cahill, dismisses there was any kind of problem.

"If you see them on the pitch and you watch the game, you see they are great friends and both are together. We are all friends," he insists.

"We put good intensity into our training. For us, we treat the training like we treat a game - 100 per cent. We have to give everything. That's why we get those kind of training incidents."

Zouma already has a Capital One Cup winners' medal under his belt and is looking forward to adding the FA Cup to his Chelsea haul.

"We want to win the FA Cup," he said. "Wembley is a big target for us. I never won (the equivalent of) the FA Cup in France but I hope to win it this year with Chelsea."

"It's a new year. We have played well, let's keep it up."

"We have Everton at home on Saturday, we want to win it and we need the points. We cannot think about drawing or losing, only about winning games," Zouma added.



■ CHRIS Ramsey delighted to continue at Loftus Road

QPR FA CUP FAILINGS - PAST 20 YEARS

Season	Exit stage	Venue	Opponents/Result
2015-16	3rd round	A	Nottingham Forest 0-1
2014-15	3rd round	H	Sheffield United 0-3
2013-14	3rd round	A	Everton 0-4
2012-13	4th round	H	MK Dons 2-4
2011-12	4th round	H	Chelsea 0-1
2010-11	3rd round	A	Blackburn Rovers 0-1
2009-10	3rd round replay	H	Sheffield United 2-3
2008-09	3rd round replay	A	Burnley 1-2
2007-08	3rd round	A	Chelsea 0-1
2006-07	3rd round replay	A	Luton Town 0-1
2005-06	3rd round	A	Blackburn Rovers 0-3
2004-05	3rd round	H	Nottingham Forest 0-3
2003-04	1st round	A	Grimsby Town 0-1
2002-03	1st round	H	Vauxhall Motors 1-1
(* After extra-time, Vauxhall Motors won 4-3 on penalties)			
2001-02	1st round	A	Swansea City 0-4
2000-01	4th round	H	Arsenal 0-6
1999-2000	4th round	A	Charlton Athletic 0-1
1998-99	3rd round	H	Huddersfield Town 0-1
1997-98	3rd round replay	A	Middlesbrough 0-2
1996-97	5th round	A	Wimbledon 1-2

* Source: www.queensparkrangers-mad.co.uk/cup



■ Cauley Woodrow celebrating the first of his two goals in the home win over Rotherham in the final game of 2015 Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Woodrow blow

■ FULHAM suffered an injury blow with the news that striker Cauley Woodrow is set to be sidelined for the next 10 to 12 weeks.

Following a first-half injury sustained in Saturday's FA Cup third round defeat at Sheffield Wednesday, an x-ray confirmed the

21-year-old had suffered a fracture to the fifth metatarsal.

Woodrow, who scored twice in the recent 4-1 home win against Rotherham United, was expected to undergo surgery earlier this week and is expected to be sidelined for the best part of three months.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, January 16
CHELSEA v Everton, 3.00
Huddersfield Town v FULHAM, 3.00
Rotherham United v QPR, 3.00

SPORT

Thursday, January 14th, 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Ruben can go to the very top

CHELSEA defender Gary Cahill is confident that young midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek has all “the attributes” needed to get to the very top of the football tree.

Cahill, restored to the side for Sunday’s FA Cup third round tie against Scunthorpe United at the expense of skipper John Terry, was delighted with the 2-0 win that extends Guus Hiddink’s unbeaten run to five matches since taking over from Jose Mourinho in December.

The 19-year-old Loftus-Cheek came on for Oscar, who had an inflamed toe, at half-time and notched his first goal for Blues in the 68th minute, sealing his side’s passage to the fourth round following Diego Costa’s 13th minute opener.

“I’m delighted for him,” said Cahill. “With the quality we have in the team, especially in his position, he has had to bide his time and be patient. He’s a great kid and works really hard at his game.”

“He has been chomping at the bit to get involved and play but has shown patience. He came on and took his chance. I’m so delighted he got his goal.”

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

“But it wasn’t just his goal, his performance impressed me too. As a young boy, you just want to do everything right when you come on. You may not get too many opportunities when you are younger, so to come on and do as well as he did . . . I was really pleased for him,” added the England central defender.

Interim manager Hiddink said: “Ruben came on and scored a beautiful goal – not just in the execution, but in the way he prepared himself for that goal.”

Play either side

“If you play a midfield with one controlling defensive midfielder and two running players, he can play on either side. If you play two controlling midfielders he can play higher up the field.”

Comparisons to the rise of Spurs’ midfield dynamo Dele Alli, also 19, are inevitable and Cahill thinks his team-mate can make the same impact as the youngster



■ RUBEN Loftus-Cheek scored his first senior Chelsea goal in the FA Cup Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Tottenham signed last year from MK Dons.

“I spoke to Ruben a while ago when he had a run in the team before,” he said.

“I think he is a top, top player, he has all the attributes. It’s just about how he progresses.”

“Obviously that is down to him getting a few chances and how well he performs. So it will be interesting to see how he progresses. But for me, he has everything you need to become a top player.”

“Dele Alli’s rise has been incredibly fast, so why can’t Ruben do it too?”

Cahill refused to get drawn into the controversy surrounding the training ground bust-up last week between Oscar and Diego Costa, suggesting he had seen similar incidents many times in his career.

“You are asking the wrong guy,” he laughed.

“For me, it’s absolutely nothing, they are best friends in the club. I’ve seen it a million times in training.”

Back to the defeat of League One Scunthorpe, 30-year-old Cahill continued: “It was a good result from a game that was a potential banana skin. We had a taste of that last season when we lost at home to Bradford

City, so we knew it was going to be difficult. Overall, I’m happy with 2-0 and we now move on.”

Was it a case of reminding players, especially the younger ones, of the need to avoid complacency?

“Yeah, it was spoken about before the match,” he confirmed.

“We started the game really well in the first 20 minutes and could have made it slightly easier on ourselves. But that’s what these games are about. They built a bit of momentum but we killed them off with the second goal.”

For Hiddink it was another clean sheet and progression in the competition he last won during his previous spell in charge at Stamford Bridge in 2009.

“We didn’t expect an easy game and it wasn’t one,” said the Dutchman. “The first 20-25 minutes we played well with high pressure. We scored a beautiful goal. Then we got a little bit sloppy finishing it off. We had two or three chances to make 2-0 and, had that happened, I think the opponent would have lost their energy.”

“As long as it was 1-0 they were still in the game. They had a big threat from corners and free-kicks. They made us shiver a bit. There were some vulnerabilities in the second-half, so we have to improve, but these are difficult games. It was their final and it was very important for us to get to the next round.”

As well as introducing Loftus-Cheek for his 11th appearance in the first team, Hiddink also brought on fellow youngsters Kenedy in the 72nd minute and Bertrand Traore with four minutes of normal time remaining.

Youngsters on

“It’s difficult to rest a lot of players but we brought some youngsters on in the second-half. That’s good for them. It’s difficult to know when to bring them on because you don’t want to give them too much responsibility for a result when they are at this stage of their career but I’m happy with their performances.”

“I knew their names before but I didn’t work with them on a daily basis. Now I am starting to know them better and you see the possibilities they have and what they have to work on.”

LWN Sport went to press before Wednesday’s home Premier League match against West Bromwich Albion but Saturday’s encounter against Everton, also at The Bridge, might still be too soon for the return of some injured players.

“Nemanja Matic was injured in training at the weekend,” said Hiddink.

“A goalie threw the ball at the back of his head from five or six yards away by accident. He was a little bit dizzy but I was glad to see he was better.”

“Oscar had a little problem with his toe. He had a small inflammation which was very painful.”

■ Zouma on Loftus-Cheek – see page 27



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham lacking energy

FULHAM manager Slaviša Jokanović has questioned the fitness of his players following Saturday’s 2-1 FA Cup third round defeat at Sheffield Wednesday.

“We played very good football for 70 minutes but missed many chances,” Jokanović admitted following his first away game in charge and the third time Whites have lost to the South Yorkshire side this season.

“It’s always disappointing. We played a good game against Sheffield in our stadium for 60 minutes (the previous week) but, generally, at the end of the game we are without energy.”

“We are without power and we aren’t in a position to change our situation in the last 20 minutes. We need to push ourselves.”

Although Jokanović, who made five changes to the team that lost at home in the league to Wednesday, has shown no sign of curbing his players’ natural attacking instincts in either of his first two matches at the helm, unfortunately he has also been unable to alter Fulham’s habit of squandering numerous gilt-edged chances either.

A rising Barry Bannan strike from 20 yards that found the roof of the net and Atdeh Nuhui’s

volley either side of substitute Moussa Dembélé’s equaliser earned the Owls a passage to round four with their only efforts on target, while Whites wasted a number of golden opportunities to score.

Dembélé, a 25th minute replacement for the injured Cauley Woodrow (see p27), had the best chance to put the visitors in front just after the restart. Right-back Jazz Richards picked him out with a curling cross but Dembélé’s header, from just four yards out, was brilliantly turned round the post by keeper Joe Wildsmith.

Missed many chances

Asked if that was the turning point in the game, Jokanović replied: “It could be but before this situation and after this situation we missed many, many chances.”

Alex Kačaniklić spurned two clear chances to score, one an inviting gift from a low cross to the far post, while top scorer Ross McCormack also went close for the Championship’s leading scorers.

“We missed many chances. We need to play with more confidence.”

“If you are in a situation like us and you are in some kind of problem, all the missed chances can affect our confidence. But we need to be strong and we need to push.”

For the second week in succession, Wednesday opened the scoring against Fulham in sensational style.

“They were very clinical – they scored a fantastic first goal and then in the right moment they scored a second, and that’s it,” Jokanović said.

“Sometimes this happens. They scored a fantastic goal and I am not very happy but people come to the stadium to watch this kind of goal. This is part of football. We will keep going to try and change our situation.”

One change could be extra training involving more emphasis on endurance work.

LWN went to press before Tuesday’s visit to Wolverhampton Wanderers and Whites go on the road again in search of vital Championship points this Saturday, when they journey up to 18th-placed Huddersfield Town who are just one point and one position above them in the table.

■ Woodrow out – see page 27